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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 197

TUESDAY JULY 15, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should MPLT grant CUC's loan application for \$4.5 million so it could rent power engines from Aggreko to stabilize Saipan's power supply?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Pleased But Worried

The United States is pleased but, at the same time worried, by the Iraqi's newly found confidence.

WORLD...Page 17



Miss Universe

Miss Venezuela was crowned Miss Universe 2008 on Monday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Fitial extends the state of emergency at CPA. **PAGE 2**

Federal visitors mum on planned suit. **PAGE 3**

CNMI deficit soars to \$218.2M

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth is facing a mounting deficit that has climbed to \$218.2 million, a \$30.1 million jump since the last estimate, despite a host of controversial steps Gov. Benigno Fitial's administration has taken to cut costs, according to a new independent report released Monday by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor.

See CNMI on Page 4

Key agencies miss deadline for audit

Several key government agencies failed to meet a deadline for providing financial data to auditors for a newly released report on the state of the Commonwealth government's finances, a factor that calls into ques-

See KEY on Page 4

FBI, OPA are probing CISCO deal

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal and local authorities have begun investigating a sole-sourced contract signed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the repair of one of its Saipan power plants.

See FBI on Page 4



AUDITORS' CONCLAVE

Participants listen to Jeanne H. Yamamura as she delivers her presentation called "Everybody Loves Cash: Basic Cash Controls" during the 19th annual conference of the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors at the Saipan World Resort. The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor is hosting the event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

\$15K cocaine brick drifts to Mañagaha



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows the cocaine package that was found in Managaha this past Saturday. It weighs 1.5 kilos. Using a presumptive drug test kit, the substance tested positive as cocaine.

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A brick-sized package containing about 1.5 kilos of cocaine with an estimated wholesale price of \$15,000 drifted to Managaha Island on Saturday and was found by some children.

According to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio Norita, some children swimming on Managaha Island had found the package adrift on the island's shore. It was wrapped in cellophane tape. The bundle, which was eventually turned over to DPS, contained about 1.5 kilos of white powder.

See \$15K on Page 4



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CONNECT

Local

Fitial extends the state of emergency at CPA

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has extended the state of disaster emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Ports Authority for another 30 days.

This is the second extension to the declaration, originally signed on May 13, 2008, to stave off technical default on

CPA's airport revenue bond indenture.

In his latest declaration, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said "the emergency conditions that resulted in the [original declaration] still exist. Thus, ultimately, this declaration renewal is necessary to protect the health and safety of all CNMI residents and visitors."

CPA remains without a

functioning board of directors to run the agency. All of the seven board members have resigned, and only two appointees have been named to replace them. The nominees—former Sen. Thomas Villagomez from Saipan and Manuel Villagomez from Tinian—have yet to be confirmed by the Senate.

"I find that the resignation of

all members of the board of directors of the CPA has resulted in an ongoing vacuum of leadership at the CPA," Fitial said, repeating language in the order he signed last month.

"Lack of appropriate leadership brought the CPA to the brink of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture. Until strong and appropriate leadership is restored to the

CPA board of directors the danger of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture will remain a significant risk to the CPA and the CNMI as a whole," he added.

CPA was on the verge of technical default on its airport revenue bond when the governor took control of the ports authority last month.

On May 13, 2008, the gov-

ernor issued an executive order placing the financially troubled ports authority under his direct control for 120 days. He also signed a separate order declaring CPA under a state of emergency for 30 days.

The Legislature has overturned the reorganization order, but the emergency declaration is keeping CPA under the Governor's Office.

Tourism up on Saipan, Rota; down on Tinian

Newly released tourism data show visitor arrival rates have raised slightly on Saipan and Rota, but dropped on Tinian for the fifth month since October 2007.

The tourism industry has suffered on all of the Commonwealth's islands recently despite some modest gains that local officials contend are the early

signs of a recovery.

Last October, for example, the visitor arrival rate on Saipan dropped 20 percent compared to the same month in the previ-

ous year, according to Marianas Visitors Authority statistics issued this week. The same held true on Rota, which saw a 22-

See **TOURISM** on Page 4

'Investigators have yet to finish probe on MGM fire'

As of yesterday, fire investigators were still determining what caused last Wednesday's blaze that engulfed the MGM garment factory in Chalan Piao.

Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio Norita told the media that investigators have yet to complete their investigation.

"No word on the cause yet from the investigators. My understanding is that maybe in the next couple more days we will

be able to conclude the investigation," Norita said.

The commissioner refused to comment further.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogu-moro said last week that the department may release the report pertaining to the cause by yesterday.

The fire resulted in the evacuation of over 200 factory workers. No one was hurt as the factory was closed at the time. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents
Board of Regents Conference room, NMC - Saipan Campus
Friday, July 18, 2008
3:30pm

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review & Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Review & Adoption of Minutes
 - i. February 07, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - ii. February 26, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - iii. March 13, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - iv. March 19, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - v. April 10, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - vi. April 15, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - vii. April 29, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - viii. June 12, 2008 - Special Meeting
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. REPORTS**
 - a. BOR Standing Committees
 - b. President
 - c. Associated Students of NMC
 - d. Faculty Senate
 - e. Staff Senate
 - f. CFAO Financial Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. WASC Update
 - b. BOR Meeting via VTC and other modes
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. BOR Self Evaluation-Assessment
 - b. Election of Officers
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VII. ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Regent Malua Peter
Acting Chairperson, BOR

July 18, 2008



Visiting federal official Igor Timofeyev, director of Immigration Policy and Special Adviser for Asylum and Refugee Affairs, talks to reporters outside the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Federal visitors mum on Fitial's planned suit

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal officials stayed mum yesterday on the CNMI government's plan to sue the U.S. government over the new immigration law in the Commonwealth, and said they look forward to having a cooperative relationship with local leaders while the "federalization" regulations are being drafted.

Igor V. Timofeyev, director of immigration policy and special adviser for refugee and asylum affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Steven Sander, congressional liaison at the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, said in separate interviews that they were aware of the lawsuit Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had announced he would file against the U.S. government. But they both declined to comment about it.

"I have heard that is being considered. I don't think that is my place to comment and, certainly, not in a situation where there is no lawsuit [filed yet]," said Timofeyev.

Sander echoed Timofeyev's statement, saying the lawsuit has not figured in the visiting delegation's meetings with the governor and administration officials on Saturday and yesterday.

"No lawsuit has been instituted at this point. We're proceeding with the meetings and discussions, and we'll just continue to do that," said Sander.

The visiting delegation is made up of representatives

from DHS, OIA, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, and Customs Border Protection, among other agencies. The group arrived on Saturday and will hold meetings with government, business, and community leaders through Wednesday.

According to Timofeyev, the purpose of the fact finding mission is get local perspective on what DHS and other concerned federal agencies should consider as they write the regulations implementing the law.

"Really, we look at this as the beginning of a dialogue between the federal government and the Commonwealth. Our goal is to ensure that, as we work to implement the law, we do in a way that it not only promotes the security of the United States, but also takes into account very important economic and other interests of the Commonwealth," Timofeyev said.

He refused to talk specifically about the regulations, saying the discussion had only started. "It's premature for me to say right now how restrictive or how flexible any specific provision is. We will do what we are required to do under the law," he said.

He also said there is no definite timeline for the drafting of the regulations. However, he added that DHS and other agencies tasked with writing the regulations will abide by timelines set in the statute.

Under the law, the U.S. government will assume full control of local immigration by June 1, 2009.

SIGN the Open Govt Act Petition!

Apply PL8-41 to the Legislature
512 signatures of registered voters needed by July 21

Petitions will be available at the:
Tuesday Market, July 15, Fishing Base 4pm-8pm
Garapan Street Market, July 17, 6pm-9pm
Sabalu Market, July 19, 7am-Noon
Kagman Market every evening this week 4pm-5pm

Contact Tina Sablan at 285-3935 or
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Petition signings at Kagman center

There will be a petition signing outside the Kagman Community Center on Thursday, July 17, at 6:30pm. The petitions are the Open Government Act petition and the Friends of the Marianas Trench petition.

The Open Government Act aims for accountability and transparency through announcements of legislative hearings and sessions, as well as public access to records, including financial data.

The Friends of the Marianas Trench petition aims to protect and preserve our ocean's natural resources, particularly the three northernmost isolated Chamorro islands.

There will also be a registration for Democrats who wish to vote in the 2008 closed primary for CNMI delegate and the 2009 gubernatorial primary election. (PR)

Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

- Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 7pm
- Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm
- Please adhere to the following schedules:
- Monday – Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.
- Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.
- For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (PR)

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam are warning the public

that the U.S. military is currently conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla everyday until July 18, 2008, from 7am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Red Cross Health and Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training

for the month July 2008:

- Adult CPR – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm
- First Aid – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm
- Infant & Child CPR – August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.
- The training fee for Adult CPR and

First Aid is \$30.00 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35.00 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5.00 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)

TOURISM

From Page 2

percent tourism drop that month.

Recent MVA marketing campaigns and promotions, however, have begun to yield some limited benefits among key Asian tourism markets like Japan, Korea and Russia.

Yet the slight increases in June appear confined to Saipan and Rota. On Saipan, arrivals jumped 3 percent last month compared to the June of the previous year. On Rota, tourism rates held steady, with only one more tourist, for a total of 953, visiting the island over last year's figure of 952. In contrast, tour-

ist visits to Tinian dropped by six tourists in June, at 3,173 total compared to 3,179, and by 17 percent in the previous month.

Korean tourism is up 31 percent over fiscal year 2007, MVA says. The Japanese market has begun to show signs of improvement, with single digit jumps in arrivals each month since April after several months of significant declines. Russian tourism has seen a dramatic upswing, increasing 158 percent in June compared to last year, yet the number of tourist arrivals is still low compared to other markets, with a mere 4,431 arrivals for the year so far. (Stefan Sebastian)

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE			
As the rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1, the load shedding schedule for July 12, 2008 through July 18, 2008 will be as follows.			
8am - 10am	Feeder-2: Second	2pm - 4pm	Feeder-1: Second
Partial		& Third Partial	
Fishing Base south to San Jose Intersection		99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill, Annaks Condominiums	
10am - 12pm	Feeder-4: Second	4pm - 6pm	Feeder-7: Entire
Partial		Grid	
Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago		Lower Base industrial area, north of Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi	
12pm - 2pm	Kiya-4: Second	6pm - 8pm	Kiya-2: Second
Partial		Partial	
Susupe, Mount Carmel south to		Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas	
		8pm - 10pm	Kiya-1: First

FBI

From Page 1

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said yesterday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Public Auditor are looking into the contracting arrangement between the utility and the Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc.

In 2006, CUC hired CISCO to fix the six engines at Power Plant II in Lower Base. To date, only one engine is operational. The FBI is involved in the probe because the \$885,000 used to pay CISCO came from the federal government.

Muna said the investigation had

been ongoing before he took over CUC in May 2008.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan declined to comment on the investigation.

CUC entered into the CISCO contract without soliciting bids or proposals from any other company. Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, according to the governor's state of emergency declaration, approved the contract on May 14, 2006.

In a letter justifying the sole-source procurement, then CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero said the repair of the Power Plant II engines was necessary to increase CUC's reserve power capacity.

"Because CUC does not currently have reserve power, we consider this

situation an emergency and ask that CUC be allowed to issue a contract immediately to CISCO, a qualified on-island business, for these urgently needed services," Guerrero has said.

CISCO's plan was to increase power production from Power Plant II to a minimum of 10 MW of backup power. The goal was to rehabilitate Power Plant II so as to allow units at Power Plant I to be shut down for much delayed overhauls. The overhauls were necessary to improve the fuel efficiency and generation capacity of the engines.

CISCO's work at Power Plant II has now been suspended. The only operational engine, which has a capacity of 2.5 MW, is producing 1.8 MW of power.

to garment industry's demise, Sablan noted, with projections suggesting that user fees—the tax on shipments of exports like manufactured clothing—will reach an eventual low of \$1 million a year compared to an annual high several years ago of \$39 million. Sablan noted the reduced revenue is a "sign the garment industry is winding down" in the Commonwealth.

Responding to the deficit, the Fitial administration has already implemented a series of controversial steps to the cut government costs, such as reducing salaries, cutting back on the operating hours of government offices and cracking down on expenses like utility and

KEY

From Page 1

tion the report's findings.

According to the report, released Monday by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the NMIs Retirement Fund, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the local public school system did not submit financial statements for the report. The deadline for the submitting the statements passed on June 30, 2007, OPA chief Michael Sablan said in an interview.

"This is a serious problem," said Sablan. "These are some of the most critical agencies in the CNMI's government. They are not just important, but they also play a big part in the govern-

Investigation Division had tasked his investigators and the drug task force to [go] to Mañagaha," he said.

Norita said CID investigators completed the search of Mañagaha all around the beach area to make sure there's no other drifting cocaine.

The commissioner recalled that three to four years ago in Chuuk, a bunch of cocaine also drifted to shore.

In the CNMI, Norita said marijuana in a trash bag drifted to the beach a few years ago.

"So it's not the first time. The CNMI is a transshipment point for cargo, ships and airlines. We are surrounded by water," he said, which means the package may have been dropped from a passing ship.

ment's overall financial condition."

A key consequence of the agencies' failure to submit those statements, he added, is that the information contained in OPA's new report on their finances has seen "no independent verification" to determine whether it is correct.

Sablan said OPA is preparing to meet with officials in each of the agencies to learn why they did not submit the statements.

Officials with most of the agencies at issue in the report were unavailable for comment or could not be reached at press time. However, Mark Aguon, administrator of NMIRF, said his office did submit the information required well ahead of the deadline. OPA officials, however, did not accept it because the statement was not properly bound. (Stefan Sebastian)

CNMI

From Page 1

Declining tax revenues due to the slow death of the Commonwealth's once prosperous garment manufacturing industry and increasing debts the government owes the NMI Retirement Fund, the pension fund for its employees, are the major factors contributing to the deficit, the report says. Efforts to curb government spending, it adds, have resulted in only a modest cost savings of \$15.9 million.

The new report comes as House lawmakers on Capital Hill are preparing to draft legislation based on the Fitial ad-

ministration's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget. The deepening deficit, OPA chief Michael Sablan said in an interview, is a sign the government's financial status is going from bad to worse.

"What the deficit tells us is that the financial condition of the government has worsened as of one year ago," Sablan said.

Unpaid Retirement Fund contributions and other employee benefit-related debts, the report says, stood at \$175.1 million at the close of fiscal year 2007. Revenues collected in the general fund meanwhile dropped \$32.8 million from the previous year to \$159.9 million.

Much of the revenue drop is due

travel costs.

"This administration has not added to the deficit," said Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman. "We have come in and tried to curtail it."

Yet whether those cost-cutting moves will have a significant impact remains to be seen as the government's total expenditures have dropped a mere 7.6 percent, according to the report, far less than the growth of the Commonwealth's rising debts. The bulk of those cuts was salary and wage reductions, an expense that decreased 7.4 percent overall to \$101.2 million under the prior total of \$109.3 million.

Meanwhile, Saipan is hosting more

than 200 public auditors for an annual conference of the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors. The event, held through the rest of the week at the Saipan World Resort, include auditing and financial courses for government auditors. CNMI Attorney General Matthew Gregory, in a speech before the conference attendees yesterday applauded the work of OPA's Sablan, who is preparing to depart from the agency.

"Today, he has shown that people from the CNMI can police themselves in matters of government ethics and public corruption," Gregory said. "The naysayers said it couldn't be done; he has proved them wrong."

IConnect prepares for year's typhoon season

In preparation for the 2008 Tropical Storm and Typhoon season, IConnect is providing safety tips for its customers and employees on Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Just in the last two months, three separate large tropical storms have passed over the CNMI turning into full-blown Typhoons hitting the Philip-

ines, Taiwan, and China with winds above 100 mph.



Mickelson

"They say the Big One comes every five years!" said Hans Mickelson, IConnect general manager. "It's not if, it's when, that's why you always have to prepare like each call to action is for real."

Forecasters are predicting that the Marianas may have a few to many named tropical storms forming in the area between June, December, and January turning into full-blown typhoons.

"One thing that we have learned in preparing for typhoon season is to develop a plan well in advance," said Matt Giger, vice president for IConnect. "We are currently ramping up our typhoon response plans to ensure the company will be able to address emergencies in the most effective manner possible." (*iConnect*)

PREPARING FOR TYPHOONS

IConnect recommends that businesses and residents follow these guidelines and helpful tips provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to prepare for the typhoon season:

- Assemble an emergency supplies kit with items such as potable water, canned food, a battery-operated radio, flashlight, first aid and essential medications. Be sure to include extra batteries including cell phone, PTT radio, batteries and a car charger is a must.

- Keep important documents such as insurance policies, social security cards, and bank account information in a waterproof container.

- Post emergency phone numbers by each phone and teach children how and when to call 911.

- If an evacuation proves to be necessary, cell phone users can call 911 for help getting to shelter and evacuation route updates in your area.

- Learn to use alternate methods of communication during an emergency, such as Push to Talk or text messaging. Both provide a way to let loved ones know quickly that you and your family are okay.

- Monitor official weather bulletins on the radio, television and weather related websites.

- Identify ahead of time where you would go if you were told to evacuate and consider how your household would stay in contact if you were separated.

- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level of your home.

- Turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting to keep food cold and Close storm shutters and secure yard items such as patio furniture.

- Turn off utilities if instructed.

National Weather Service Website: www.nws.noaa.gov

Traffic cases dropping in 8-year period

The number of traffic cases filed in the Superior Court has dropped significantly the past eight years.

According to the NMI Judiciary Annual Report, from 12,235 traffic cases filed in 2000, there were only 3,091 traffic cases in 2007 or a big

74.7 percent decrease.

The report shows a pattern of decline. In 2001 there were 10,320 traffic cases; in 2002, 8,391; in 2003, 6,142; in 2004, 7,544; in 2005, 5,407; and in 2006, 5,399.

In the eight-year period, there were 82,516 total cases filed in

court and a bulk of them—58,529—were traffic.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release a formal explanation regarding the decreasing trend. Some observers said it could be mainly because many people, mostly alien workers, have been leav-

ing the CNMI due to the economic depression. Others said it is because DPS has been reducing its police visibility in the streets due to staffing shortage.

The same report indicates that in that eight-year period, the court disposed 53,092 traffic cases. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

CIC donates \$5,000 to Rota school

Century Insurance Corp., an affiliate of Tan Holdings Corp., donated yesterday \$5,000 as educational tax credit to the Rota-based Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja.

CIC president Dave Sablan presented the \$5,000 check to Bishop Thomas Camacho at the office of the Chalan Kanoa Diocese. The Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja is a sister school of Mount Carmel School, and both are part of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

The school's finance officer, Fr. Bong Lopez, said they will use the money for operational expenses, including payment for utilities.

The Rota school had 55 students last year and is hoping to increase its enrollment numbers to at least 75.

"Dave Sablan is very generous, and I want to say thank you very much for all the help. May God bless the company," said Lopez. "Bishop Camacho coordinated the whole issue and was the one that approached Dave Sablan for support in this matter." (*Jacqueline Dela Cruz*)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Century Insurance president Dave M. Sablan Sr. and Century Insurance Company Ltd. general manager Nel Matanguihan present the check donation to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and Fr. Bong Lopez at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

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DPS launches website to get tips, improve services

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety yesterday launched its new website with the goal of getting more tips about crimes and improving the department's service to the community.

In a press briefing, DPS Commissioner Claudio Norita said the website—dps.gov.mp—tells the public what the department is and what its personnel do.

"It also gives an opportunity for the community to give us information, provide comments about what we are doing, how can we improve our services as well as reporting crimes," Norita said.

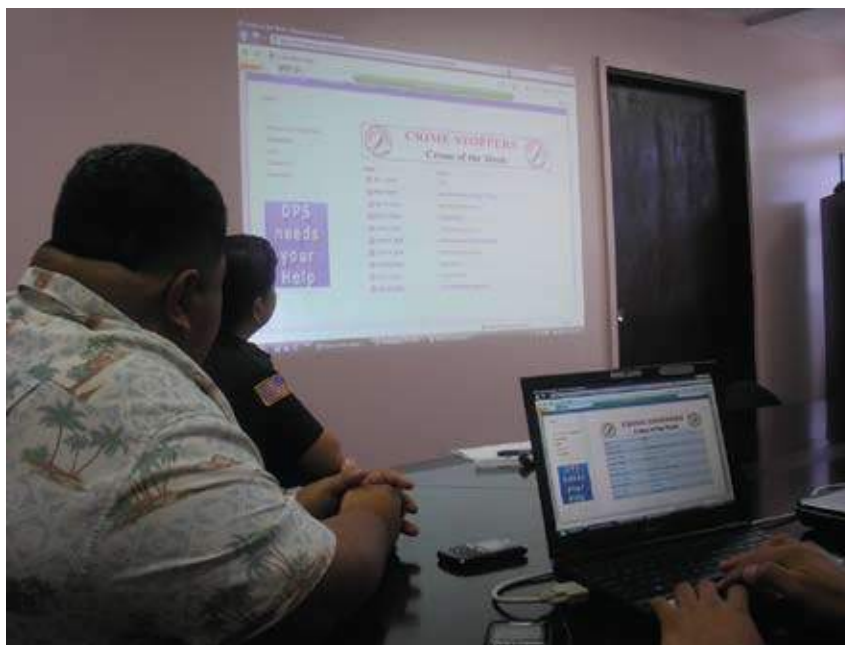
The public can even download DPS forms from the website.

"It's in the initial phase but

the forms that are now available for downloading are those for renewing your driver's license, or applying for a driver's license, renewing your vehicle registration, applying for a firearms permit, and so forth," the commissioner said.

DPS paid \$2,700 to CD Consulting Services for the initial development of the website. The department will also be paying a \$700 monthly to the company for hosting e-mail, technical support, real time updates and other services.

"It's open for everybody around the world. It also links up with our DPS e-mail system where every employee of the Department of Public Safety



Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio Norita and NMI Crime Stoppers coordinator Tricia Sema view CD Consulting Services' presentation of the DPS' new website during a press conference yesterday.

from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota would have an e-mail address," Norita said.

The commissioner said DPS had a website before, but it remained idle.

Norita said when he was appointed to DPS as commissioner a few months ago, he sat down with CD Consulting Services owner Daniel Camacho.

He said they discussed how to work on the website, making it user friendly and informative.

Norita said the objective of the website is to make some DPS services convenient such as downloading forms and filling up the forms.

He said once the Department of Finance is prepared, DPS is ready to start accepting online payments and doing everything online.

"You don't have to drive, you don't have to fall in line and wait for three to four hours for simple services that you can do on the computer," Norita stressed.

On the issue of crimes, the commissioner said he expects to receive lots of tips from the community through the website. He said DPS will also get

information from the public on the behavior or attitude of police officers or firefighters.

"There's a lot space for improvements," Norita said.

Camacho said the website is really challenging to do and at the same time rewarding in the sense that now the community has access to the department.

In explaining its important features, Camacho said the website is pretty much structured by the organizational element of the DPS.

"This website will also soon have a feature where anyone in the community can report a crime. That's the next step that we are going to be working on," Camacho said.


He said nobody knows who the informants are as they will simply fill up the forms, describe the crime that was committed, and the information will be forwarded to the proper person.

CD Consulting Services co-owner Roxanne Diaz described the website as very user friendly.

"People can't imagine how large the department is. It's huge. And this is a great way to know the Department of Public Safety," Diaz said.

She said it's the feedback from the community and the staff that will make the website functional.

"A website can be a website, but if it's not used and is not user friendly and not up to date with information, it doesn't serve anything," she said.


Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-073
Submission/Opening Date: July 24, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.


"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND TO INCLUDE OTHER PERIPHERALS FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S


Commonwealth Development Authority
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: 2008-CDA-05-RFP
Closing Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the specifications may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 1st Floor, Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Saipan, during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

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Safe diving measure becomes law

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill that gives more teeth to the Safety Diving Act.

House Bill 16-11, now Public Law 16-6, grants the Department of Public Safety the power to enforce the diving law. Specifically, it allows police officers to issue citation to those who operate businesses for scuba instruction or scuba diving tours without meeting legal requirements.

The new law also urges DPS to work with the Department of Finance and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to assess the level of difficulty of each dive site throughout the Commonwealth and to set forth restrictions to ensure the safety of divers.

Sponsored by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, the legislation amends the Safety Diving Act of 1990, which regulates tour diving and

diving instruction businesses in the Commonwealth.

Under the law, diving instructors are required to be certified and to obtain substantial liability

HANMI elects new board members

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands voted two new members on its board.

At a recent General Membership meeting held at Marianas Resort & Spa, HANMI members elected Aqua Resort Club general manager Hiro Sugie and Saipan World Resort general manager Hong-Chul Shin as board members.

"We are very happy to have Mr. Shin and Mr. Sugie join us on the HANMI board," said HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight. "Their wealth of knowledge and experience in the hospitality industry make them true assets

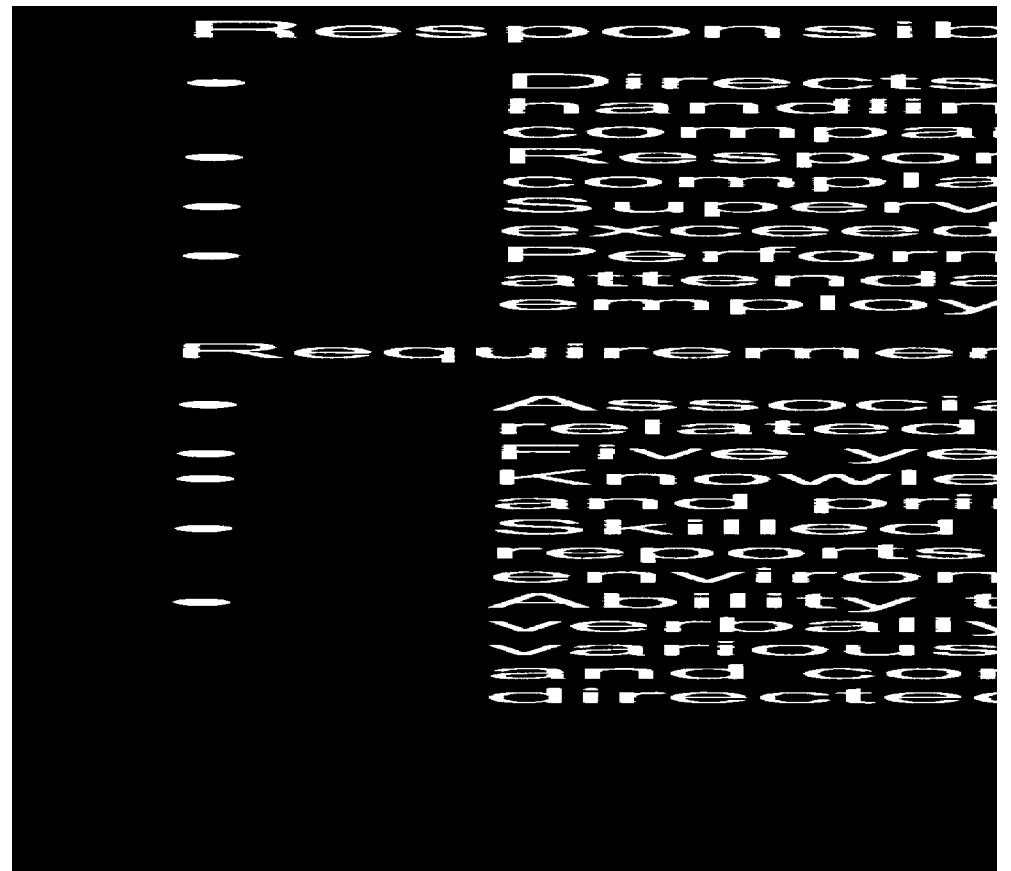
to the HANMI team."

Shin will take over for Hideo Nishigori former general manager of Hotel Nikko, now Palms Resort Saipan. While Sugie was elected to take over the post of Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael Von Siebenthal, as Siebenthal has been given a new assignment with Hyatt in Japan.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established on Aug. 29, 1985, after a group of hotel operators came together and saw the need to form an organization representing the hospitality industry in the CNMI. (HANMI)



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately \$300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2008 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

JGPO's Guam Office changes leadership

SANTARITA, Guam—Retired Marine Corps Col. John J. Jackson was named yesterday as the new, permanent Director of the Joint Guam Program Office's Guam-based staff. Jackson will

be responsible for the local planning, coordination and execution of the military realignment program on the island.

Jackson will be replacing Capt. Robert Lee who has been

acting director of JGPO since October 2006 when the office was first opened on Guam.

"We know Capt. Lee's departure will leave a big hole in the community," said retired

Maj. Gen. David F. Bice, executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office in Washington, DC. "His rapport with the community has been outstanding and he laid an excellent foundation of trust and open communication upon which Mr. Jackson will be able to capitalize."

Jackson brings over 35 years of military and government service to his position with JGPO. After serving in the U.S. Army, Jackson attended the University of Utah and was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduation. Over the next 30 years, Jackson commanded Marine forces afloat and ashore around the globe. Additionally, he commanded the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, and was the Chief of Staff for U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command.

He has extensive operational and training experience in the Pacific region, having served multiple tours of duty in Japan and Okinawa, and possesses a strong background in military installations development and operations.

In addition to his bachelor's degree from the University of Utah, Jackson has a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College, where he was a Distinguished Graduate.

"I am happy to be returning to the Pacific region in support of this critical program," said Jackson. "Coordination and communication with the people of Guam is essential, and I look forward to working with island leaders and members of the community."

Also joining the JGPO staff in Guam is new Deputy Director Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, USN. Zalamea brings over 30 years of Navy service, and was most recently the commander of Maritime Pre-positioning Ships Squadron Three in the Western Pacific.

"Both Mr. Jackson and Captain Zalamea bring significant experience and familiarity with the Pacific region to their new positions leading the JGPO team in Guam," said Bice. "They will be valuable assets and provide great insights as we continue to make progress in the planning process."

This week Mr. Penn will introduce the new JGPO leadership in courtesy calls to the Guam and CNMI executives as well as to the communities at Chamber of Commerce meetings.

The Joint Guam Program Office facilitates the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. JGPO works within the Department of Defense and closely with the Government of Japan, Government of Guam, U.S. Congress and Federal agencies to lead and manage the delivery of required capabilities to the Marines. For more information, visit www.jgpo.navy.mil. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 15, 1999

Lower budget would hurt operations—DPS

Officials of the Department of Public Safety griped yesterday on what they claim as meager budget set aside by the government for the next fiscal year, warning that lower spending level would hamper their operations to maintain peace and order on the island. In a nearly three-hour budget hearing conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee, DPS prodded legislators to reinstate the funding level that they approved last year to ensure continued delivery of services to the community.

Rebates, refunds to be released in October

The first batch of rebates and refunds for those who filed their income tax returns early will be mailed out by the Department of Finance between October and November this year. Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen assured yesterday that the government has funds to meet its obligations covering tax year 1998, but said others might not be getting their rebates and refunds as scheduled.

CPA to decide on Northwest's plea for incentives

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is set to decide today on the request of Northwest Airlines for a seven-month extension of its incentive program, according to CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Salas explained the board and management will analyze its effect on the financial situation of the ports authority, particularly its impact on the capability of the Airport Division to repay its \$20 million debt.

July 15, 2002

Torres turns over Jordan probe to OPA

The House Committee on Ways and Means turned over to the Office of the Public Auditor the task of investigating the employment contract of Special Assistant for CIP Management Charles Jordan. In a letter dated July 12, committee Chair Rep. Stanley T. Torres said that, since Jordan has refused to let the committee obtain a copy of his Statement of Financial Interests from the OPA, he is therefore asking the OPA to lead the probe.

Christmas decors needed for DC tree

The Office of Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio is seeking 50 Christmas ornaments for the CNMI Christmas Tree, which, together with the other states and territories, will be placed at the "Pathway of Peace" for the "Christmas Pageant of Peace" in Washington, D.C. The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is helping Tenorio's office in coordinating this program.

Micronesian legends book available

The NMI Council for the Humanities has announced the publication of a new book that highlights the oral traditions of Micronesia. Micronesian Legends, compiled by Nancy and William Flood and Beret Strong, includes traditional legends of the islands presented in cultural contexts that integrate history, geography, and economics to emphasize the importance of both modern and traditional knowledge.

July 15, 2003

Finance pays CUC \$800K

No government office will be disconnected as yet. Shortly before the close of business yesterday, no less than Bob Schwalbach, the Governor's senior policy advisor, walked into the office of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Lorraine Babauta to personally hand over an \$800,000 check as initial payment on the government's outstanding utility bill, sparing some government offices from sure disconnection.

Senate attempts to get back on track

With the return of Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez, minority senators asked Senate President Paul A. Manglona yesterday to call for a session tomorrow, July 16, to resume deliberations on urgent matters pending before the upper house. In a letter to Manglona, minority leader Pete P. Reyes, Sen. David M. Cing and Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero asked for a Wednesday session in order to address important and urgent issues before the Senate, now that all senators are in the CNMI.

Villagomez undecided on Brown

Pending his review on the matter, Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez is undecided on what position to take on Pamela Brown's nomination as Attorney General—an issue that has sparked deep division at the upper house while he was away. Fresh from a California trip, Villagomez is looking forward to meeting with Senate members to get acquainted on the events of the past weeks.



REVIVING THE ANTI-FRUIT FLY PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former senator David M. Cing poses with Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo during his visit to the congresswoman's office in Washington D.C. on June 12, 2008. Cing is providing Bordallo with a historical timeline of the fruit fly eradication program that was proposed for the Marianas archipelago in 1993 but failed after then Guam Gov. Joseph Ada refused to provide matching funds for the program. Bordallo, with the help of Cing and former Rota mayor Benjamin Manglona, hope to revive the program as a means to jumpstart the agricultural sector of the Marianas. Eradicating fruit flies would allow local farmers to export their products.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONGSON (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$58,240.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than **August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of \$58,240.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this _____ day of July, 2008.

By: _____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ELOY T. DELA CRUZ and SHIRLEY ANN R. DELA CRUZ (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 23, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 29, 2002, under Document No. 02-2209 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Kagman and hereafter described:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on February 29, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$85,060.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of \$85,060.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this _____day of July, 2008.

By: _____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

HERMAN M. GUERRERO aka Herman M. Deleon Guerrero and Asunta T. Guerrero aka Asunta T. Deleon Guerrero (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 18, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 18, 1983, under Document No. 17740 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in San Vicente and hereafter described:

Tract number 20472-9, and containing an area of 926 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 2064/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 14154, on the 26th day of March, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 11, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$91,150.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of \$91,150.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this _____day of July, 2008.


By: _____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$95,020.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than **August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of \$95,020.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this _____day of July, 2008.

By: _____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

VICENTE W. KAIPAT and LEONILA S. KAIPAT (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 21, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 10, 1994, under Document No. 94-1199 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Kobleville and hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 330, containing an area of 1,109 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 07, dated September 8, 1982, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 18433, dated September 30, 1983 the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 19, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$116,930.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

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Dated this _____day of July, 2008.

By: _____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 197Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Emitters Protection Agency

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change are a danger to public health and welfare. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson could have come to that conclusion. The science certainly would have been on his side. But Johnson opted to ignore the urgings of EPA experts when he announced Friday that the agency would seek public comment on the threat posed by global warming, thus pushing regulation of greenhouse gases to the next administration. This move makes President Bush's signing of the Group of Eight declaration on climate change on Tuesday look like an empty gesture.

We agree that the Clean Air Act doesn't provide the ideal way to regulate greenhouse gasses and wasn't designed for that purpose. But the Bush administration has only itself to blame for this regulatory mess. Rather than go to Congress with a rational plan for a cap-and-trade system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, it played games.

In April 2007, the Supreme Court ruled in Massachusetts vs. EPA that the EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles under the Clean Air Act. In addition, the court said that the agency must determine whether those emissions endanger public health and welfare by contributing to climate change. If they do, the EPA must devise standards to regulate them. If not, the court required the agency to ground its explanation in science.

Here's what got the White House spooked: If the EPA classified carbon dioxide from motor vehicles as a pollutant that threatens public health or welfare, then the agency would have to regulate greenhouse gases from all other sources as well. Sections 108, 109 and 111 of the Clean Air Act deal with regulating emissions from stationary sources, such as residential and commercial buildings, establishing national ambient air quality standards and setting source performance standards, respectively. Each of these complicated regulations has its own complex implementation process.

Ever since the Supreme Court's ruling, the administration, using the limited discretion granted by the high court, has punted on meaningful decision-making. Johnson initially said that an endangerment finding would be made by the end of 2007. Because Friday's newly announced process for public input will last 120 days, Johnson has effectively kicked a final decision to the next administration.

Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., the presumptive Republican and Democratic presidential nominees, both recognize climate change as a threat to the nation's security and way of life. No matter which man is elected, the see-no-evil approach of the Bush administration will come to a merciful end.

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Fishing for bombs

Let's eat tomorrow too

Fishing requires only three things: Fish plus the skills and equipment to catch them. Well, okay, water is helpful.

Right now we have an abundance of fish around most of the CNMI but we have one place that is losing fish populations on a daily basis. The Saipan lagoon is overfished and "subsistence" fishermen are killing the resource. Many more fisherman are fishing and most are using modern technology to make their catches, making it easier for them to strip the waters.

Responsible catch limits on numbers and size of fish taken can allow fish stocks to replenish themselves inside the lagoon so Saipan families can continue to be fed far into the future. That is not happening now. Those who will be leaving may not care.

Hordes of fishermen, hundreds every day, ply the waters of the lagoon, taking everything that lives. Every fish, no matter how small, every shellfish, every invertebrate, every crustacean; all are taken. When all, including the babies and the breeders, are taken and eaten, too few survive to breed and sustain the fishery.

Indigenous peoples sustained large populations in these same islands solely by the use of local resources. They did not import food or other commodities. They managed to sustain themselves through internal regulation. Chiefs and elders strictly controlled fish takes. They even had "no take" zones such as we see today. It was forbidden to fish in some zones altogether and others were regulated by fishing only at certain times or seasons. All zones were restricted to members of certain groups. Others fished there literally on peril of their lives. In short, they made fishing rules and enforced them stringently. That indigenous system is no longer in place and needs to be replaced with another.

The fishing license proposed by some is a start. Then we know who is fishing. It would also give any new size/take regulations some enforceable teeth. No license, no fishing. Regulation offenders could be barred from the waters for a time or have other punishments (short of death) meted upon them.

As times get tougher many, local citizens and foreign nationals alike are turning to the lagoon to provide extra food for the table. The problem is too many are taking too much for the fish to survive. We must remember that the lagoon acts like a nursery for fish and other aquatic life of all kinds. Sea life outside the lagoon abounds and thrives but close in fish populations will crash if overfishing continues. The lagoon will die, not 50 years from now, but soon if unregulated, "scorched earth", take-everything fishing is allowed to continue. Already, the catch is fewer and fewer...smaller and smaller.

■■■

Attention CUC protesters

Standing around with a protest sign will not get your power turned

Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



back on or fix the generators or make the cost of fuel go back down. At best it is an exercise in futility, at worst it is a waste of your time and money.

Here is a suggestion. Here is something you can do right now, today, that will actually have an effect. Take your business elsewhere. It's that simple, just unhook yourself from the CUC grid and do without that electricity. Build yourself a small fire in the back yard to do your cooking on, or buy a gas stove.

Get a generator, buy a flashlight and a big box of candles. Use them daily. Put a catchment tank on the roof and use gravity to feed water into your house. Then there is no need to support CUC by buying water from them either. Now you are really doing something that counts. Now you have some punch behind your protest. Get your friends to join you.

We electric users are all aggravated by the continuing outages and ultra high bills, but protesting just doesn't feed the bulldog. Standing at the side of the road will net you a soggy sign if it rains, and not much of anything else. This may be the reason so few of you showed up.

■■■

Another suggestion

Advocates, protesters, carpenters, kings and just about everyone in the Commonwealth has an interest in power production, its reliability and its costs today. The newly formed Public Utilities Commission met this weekend to discuss just what to do about the problem. Want to guess how many interested advocates and revolutionaries cared to show up? None. Thanks Ken.

Electricity users, if you really want to be part of the solution instead of just another voice in the kilowatt wilderness, make it a point to attend the PUC meetings, the CUC board meetings, the public addresses by CUC and the legislative committee and other meetings where allowed. Find out what is being done. Make a reasonable suggestion if you have one and have the opportunity to speak. You might just make a difference that way.

* * * *

Since I seem to be harping on electric power again, it seems only

See **FISHING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China on display II

SHANGHAI—There are now a few English language stations on China's TV landscape. The traditional ethnocentric and xenophobic ethos, contained in the people's depiction of itself as the Middle Kingdom, and the extremely communal socialism practiced by the Mao era, is giving way to an openness brought about by the liberalization of commerce and industry.

Satellite watchers outside of mainland China are familiar with CCTV 9, the official English language broadcast station of the nation. From my modest hovel of a hotel in Pudong, I can also watch CETV1 and ICS programs. The latter seem to favor programs from international sources. There are also sports channels, which require not much translation. The coverage of CCTV Olympics tends to be visually self-explanatory.

Most of the TV programs originate from Shanghai with one station emanating from Guangzhou (Canton). All are regulated from Beijing. Hong Kong-made dramas are preferred, and *Putonghua*-dubbed Korean dramas are very popular. This Saturday in July, the commercially produced story of Mother Teresa is surprisingly being aired.

Much of Chinese TV delve in images out of the past, with the Taoist motif of unity with nature prominently extolled, and the Buddhist traditions of martial arts and meditation as the backdrops for introducing contemporary issues and struggles. Movies familiar to astute Western audiences will not miss the allusion of a resolute Qin Shi Huangdi as analogous to the firm though often unpopular stance that personalities like Mao Tse Tung and Deng Xiao Ping had taken in propelling their people out of Imperial China and doctrinaire communism.

The creative tension between mandarin Shanghai and proletarian Sheyang, imperial Beijing and industrial Dalian, cultural Nanjing and commercial Zhenzhen, rural revolutionary Mao and urban cadre Chair Zhou En Lai, has been a prominent and permanent feature of Chinese socio-economic-cultural profile. Seeking the harmonious balance between the opposing forces of the yin and the yang has undergirded Sino thoughts even before Kung Fu Tzu (Confucius) came into prominence.

Thus, much of Chinese behavior is often seen positively as collaborative, cooperative and conciliatory, negatively, as obedient,

compromising and docile. In short, the social model is that of the extended family structure of which there are clearly defined levels of subservience and obeisance, of acquiescence and authority. For an outsider, "Chineseness" is thus best approached as a land of mystery, a never-ending enigma, before one can acquiesce to the illusion, or pretense, of crystal ball clarity.

I've heard it said that only American tourists flock to Paris in August while the locals head for Nice. It is also claimed that only the ignorant tourists, domestic and overseas compatriots, who come to Shanghai in July. For Shanghai and the plains of Jiangsu in July is hot and muggy, with nary a drop of rain. The flies and the mosquitoes proliferate and the knowledgeable head for the cool hundred islands of the West Lake in Hangzhou in the neighboring southern province of Shejiang.

I am not much of a tourist when I visit another country, though timing-wise, I confess to being 2-on-2 on Paris and Shanghai. I do follow the advice I give my students who go on vacation to other countries to be travelers, to intentionally become a part of the local setting they find themselves in, to be empathetic to the cultural setting as much as one can stretch one's imagination, and gain understanding of the local response to the universal human condition of personal identity and vocation. Most tourist gawk from a distance, geographical and psychological, and if they have courage, they nibble at the edges but keep to their bottled water.

Shanghai is one of those cities who still feel comfortable in recommending immediate consumption of their tap water. That's quite a feat for a metropolis of 20 million people and a continuing bout with water pollution in its streams, rivers and estuaries. In fact, what one passes through one's taste buds is a defining trait of the culture. So far, the challenge to one's digestive system has stayed this side of trouble. My friends who visited me in Saipan could not say the same.

I had meant to revisit Jiangsu province northwest of Shanghai where I sojourned in March in a late winter solitary journey and retreat but the impact of globalization, and the rapid rise of the cost of fuel has caught up with me. The bus fare only four months ago from Shanghai to Sheyang was 75 yuan; it has since been raised to 200 yuan. That's a 166 percent raise, presumably, an adjustment to the rise of energy cost. It means that the Chinese government is passing

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

on the cost of fuel to its domestic consumers in spite of its huge balance of payment advantage it its foreign currency exchange.

With the increase of transportation cost comes the increase of all locally produced consumer goods. What used to be a bargain has suddenly become a pain in the backpack. So I chose to travel on the cheap, picking the least expensive housing on the Internet. Lucid that the distance between Internet advertising and reality could be as deep as the Marianas trench, I was not prepared to dwell in the ambiance of my chosen habitat northwest of the Pudong airport a good 40 km away from the Huangpu River and the Bund.

Not unlike any other metropolitan area, once one understands the public transport system, the challenge of getting around is not as formidable as facing a Himalayan tiger, even without the assurance of facility in written and spoken language. I would have stuck with my original schedule of backpacking it to Wuhan, Chengdu, Beijing, Tsingdao, and Hangzhou. But Beijing decided there were too many local folks flocking into the capital city in anticipation of the Olympiad that mobility from outside has become restrictive, making it difficult for my traveling friend and translator Won Ching On to travel. Though I pass easily for a Fujianese, my attire and demeanor is an immediate giveaway for a foreigner who is hardly welcomed these days poking a camera and hacking on his laptop re the aftermath of the Sichuan earth tremors.

But Shanghai is at once an ancient, contemporary and futuristic city, rivaled only within the constellation of Sino-luminating locales by its Special Autonomous Region cousin Hong Kong. So, Pudong and the Bund remains the backdrop of our reflection as we watch China on display in the global stage this summer.

State of the Judiciary Address

Editor's Note: The following is the State of the Judiciary Address delivered by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan to a joint session of the 16th Commonwealth Legislature in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill July 11, 2008. It is being published as a series due to its length.

Second part of a series

With that said and out of the way, allow me a few minutes of your time to discuss with you the state of the Commonwealth Judiciary. It is my pleasure to report to you that the Commonwealth Judicial System is strong and working hard to not only meet the challenges before it, but to seek out challenges to better improve the judicial system.

I will not dwell too much on the annual report. But let me highlight some of the things we are doing each day in the judiciary. Let me discuss the area of probation services to you and how we can work together to find ways to minimize cost, and at the same time, assist those in our community who are in need of moral and psychological support.

The Commonwealth Judiciary is faced daily with all types of criminals and defendants. The spectrum of people we see daily is indeed large and of different shades. We see, at one end, people who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and are not likely to repeat their crimes. These people are not a recurring problem, and once their cases are adjudicated, will most likely not be seen in court again. On the other end of the spectrum are those that commit very serious crimes, which hopefully you will agree that incarceration and harsh sentences are the only and most proper

way to deal with them. These are the people who commit crimes that are very serious, and for there to be justice, lengthy jail times are usually the only solution.

The middle groups in this criminal spectrum are those that could be rescued from continuing down this dangerous slippery slope. I strongly believe that these are the people we need to invest our resources in. These are the kind of defendants for whom we could invest a little by placing them in supervised probation and putting emphasis toward correcting the errors they have committed, which eventually will result in reducing recidivism. The practice of supervised probation has been in use for many years. Its success, however, is dependent on the proper ratio of the number of clients to probation officers. A probation officer who services more than 300 clients can do little more than just say "todo mauleg" when doing follow-up meetings. There is a need to place more attention on probationers than the usual greetings we all experience before boarding a plane. We can see the difference between the intensive probation programs and the supervised probationary program. In the intensive program there is success because of the high officer to client ratio. This, my congressmen and women, is why the intensive program is so successful. Unless these people are monitored and controlled by more probation officers, with a high officer to client ratio, our only other option is incarceration; a path which is doomed to fail and quite expensive.

Please do not expect the old ways of "stern lecture or kind words" to treat and straighten out most adults, or for that matter, even juvenile offenders today. If we do not address these real issues here and now, these clients of the courts and DYS, are bound to a cycle of repeated trips to the Guma' Hustisia and the Vicente T. Seman Correctional Facilities, with our people, us, paying the hefty bills.

opt for less deadly bombs." That caught my attention. The upshot of the unsigned Associated Press article was that Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., thinks our bombs work too well, but not always. This sounds like your tax dollars at work all right. Hey, instead of those dastardly cluster bombs that go around killing people, maybe they could start using cardboard boxes filled with Styrofoam "shrapnel"? To really teach those military foes a lesson we could print "BOOM" on the side of the box. That would show 'em who's who. I'm not sure if that bit of nastiness would pass muster with the Geneva Convention folks though.

By MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Miguel S. Demapan is the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

This cycle of visits to and from the courthouse and jail must stop. It is costly, and our mission of rehabilitation is not going to work. For that reason, it is incumbent upon us to break this cycle and try something new, and I ask this legislative body to increase funding for community based services for adults; and as I have said earlier, also for juveniles. We can provide these services, which will save us the high cost of incarceration. The services I am proposing would properly identify the risks and needs of the clients and provide the resources necessary to help these people overcome their underlying problems. These resources will include referrals to our community guidance center for mental health treatment, chemical dependency treatment, or other services that the client needs. Prevention is preferable because it is less costly in the long run. Unless we alter our ways in dealing with defendants in the criminal justice system, we will continue to bear the heavy cost of operating and staffing our correctional facilities and judiciary.

Let me now touch on some of the work that we do in the judiciary. Under a federal grant from the State Justice Institute, the Judiciary contracted the National Center for State Courts to develop a

See STATE on Page 14

FISHING

From Page 1

right that I point out we had our first outage in over a week on Sunday. It was of mercifully short duration. Thanks CUC, something went right seven days in a row. I'm grinning.

■■■

Effete war mongering

An article in the Wash Post last week was headlined "*Pentagon to*

Speaking of Geneva, several of our NATO allies also call for the United States to stop making these deadly explosives. Are these the same Europeans who were quite happy to have dear old Uncle Sam come over and slap that nasty Mr. Hitler around a few years back? Why yes, I believe they are. Now they would prefer us to smack 'em around with powder puffs and silk blouses.

■■■






Quote of the week: A critic is a gong at a railroad crossing clanging loudly and vainly as the train goes by.

—Christopher Morely (1890 – 1957)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

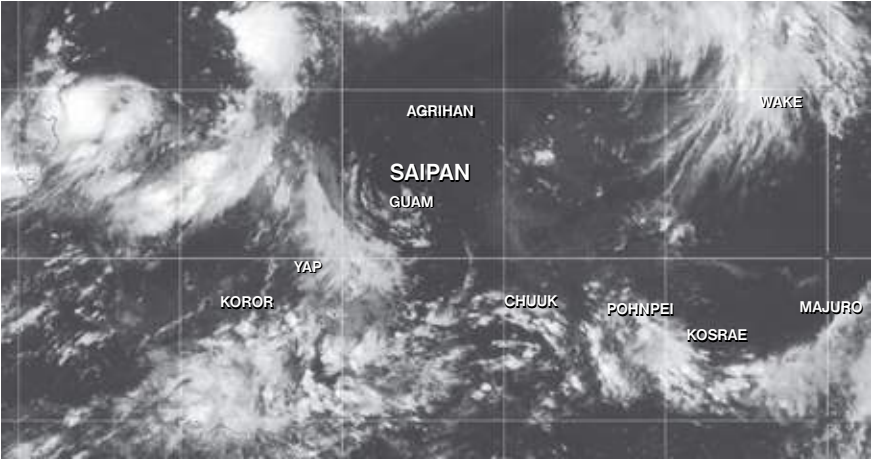
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲56 ▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88 ▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Cloudy	▲75 ▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲81 ▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲62 ▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼68
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Paris	Cloudy	▲78 ▼61
Pusan	Showers	▲86 ▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲81 ▼57
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74 ▼57
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼72
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲83 ▼71
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼69

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:08AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:06PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:41PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N143E to a weak circulation centered near 22N137E then continues west-southwestward to beyond 21N130E. Convergence south of the trough axis and near the circulation is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well north of Palau in the area bounded by a line from 18N130E to 20N135E to 25N133E to 25N146E to 23N146E to 23N138E to 19N138E to 12N130E and back to 18N130E. Trade wind convergence coupled with divergent upper-level flow west and southwest of an upper-level cyclone centered near Guam is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 15N139E to 1N148E to EQ130E to 5N130E to 9N137E and back to 15N139E. This area covers Yap state and southern Palau. Trade wind convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the date line westward to Chuuk state. This area is from EQ180 to 4N150E to 7N150E to 10N157E to 4N164E to 7N174E to 4N180 and back to EQ180. This includes eastern Chuuk state, Pohnpei state, the extreme southern Marshall Islands and western Kiribati. Convergent low-level flow and divergent upper-level flow east and west of an upper-level cyclone are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of 20N and between 155E and 171E. This area includes Wake Island.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:55AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:56AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:56AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:27PM	2:54AM
Wednesday	5:18PM	3:44AM
Thursday	6:07PM	4:37AM
Friday	6:53PM	5:31AM
Saturday	7:36PM	6:25AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

A parable for CNMI citizens

In the African-American culture the children are often spoken to in parables because it really makes you think about what you are doing and what to do in a number of situations and believe me when I say my mother ran me crazy trying to figure out her parables but it worked and I learned. Parables are also very much a part of the lessons in the Bible and they are meant to help us religiously and in our everyday life. The "Parable of the Sower" is the most noted parable of all and if we apply this parable to our situation today as a Commonwealth we will soon realize what has transpired and what needs to be done.

There are two kinds of "sowers": one sows the good seeds and the other the bad seeds. I have witnessed many people sowing in the news and I have also played a part in the sowing of seeds about our Commonwealth. The most dominating factor about sowing seeds is to institute "growth" but not necessarily change. Many letters from seed sowers have been more about maintaining the past and the status quo than change. They have been using what are clearly dead seeds lost to yesterday and dead seeds don't grow. If we know anything about history, we know that things will *never* be the same as nature and our very existence depends on change and adaptation. The evolutionary processes have not stopped simply because we can think and reason better—our society in the CNMI is still trying to catch up with our counterparts and we can't do that standing

still like we are now. So to the people who are fighting change need to check their seeds, they are not growing.

We have those who have been sowing bad seeds as we see in the fight with the feds. They are not seeds of unity and appreciation for what the federal government has done but weeds and plants like poison ivy that will grow anywhere including in the minds of people. Just think, we haven't witnessed our government *formally* expressing appreciation for *anything* the federal government has done to help the CNMI and they have given us over \$2 billion and not one *genuine* thank you. I may be wrong but I've lived here for 20 years and if they did say thanks, it wasn't too much of a thank you. If you understand our relationship with the feds, you know that we are in a marriage with no divorce unless both parties agree—so we can complain and even want a divorce but we can't by law. It is also clear to me as a student of government that the "head of this household or marriage" in this case is the federal government. So do we challenge the head of the household or try to figure out a way to co-exist and achieve what is in the best interest of both parties or do we fight like we see in real marriages? I'm sure people understand this parable and know the answer and they also know what we should do with the seeds for fighting the feds, which is to trash them.

Finally, we have those who are sowing the good seeds but their messages are falling on

rocks and can't sustain life, with no place for their roots because of the bad seed sowers who reap the messages of the good seed in the news and just totally discard the good seed hoping the dead seeds they have planted will somehow grow in place of the good seeds.

Then there are those who just "hate" and their seeds grow plants with thorns and they just poke, stab and try to suffocate the good seed and not give it room to grow. But luckily our society has a lot of fertile soil (people with common sense) that allows the good seeds to grow and for that I am most thankful about the CNMI—the many good people that are sowing the good seeds and the number of good seed sowers is growing everyday.

I'm sure people with common sense can understand this parable and how it applies to our situation. Everyone, even those who claim to not understand what common sense is, should now realize that if we declare an economic disaster it will surely bring immediate relief efforts from the feds but it will also be an open admission that we messed up ourselves, and the sowers of the bad seeds can't let that happen—all this suffering the people have been forced to endure just to avoid the admission of guilt by playing politics! The sowers of bad seeds know they won't be able to place the blame on the feds or anyone else but themselves with an admission of guilt, thus we suffer from the politics of dead seeds being sowed.

We must take note of the

bad sowers of seeds that have become deeply rooted in our government and pluck them out by the root and it's only a handful because we have many good representatives on Capital Hill. We are now reaping the results

of previous leaders who sowed bad seeds that were dead and didn't grow anything, which is the main reason we are suffering. As for the representatives who are still preventing the seeds of relief and prosperity

from growing, they need to be removed like we do a bad weed in the next election and it is simple common sense.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

'Test gas pumps for accuracy'

Dear Gov. Benigno R. Fitial:

In these days of ultra high gas prices it is especially important for our citizens to know that they are being charged fairly and in full measure at the gas pump. I have reason to believe that this is not the case.

I have received numerous reports from citizens complaining that they think they are being short-changed at various gas pumps around the island. Even a very small error in the calibration of a pump can mean hundreds of gallons of fuel being charged to customers but not delivered.

Now, at more than \$5 per gallon, this can add up to big money being accidentally or even fraudulently charged to Saipan customers. If a metering device is 95 percent correct on the short side, the "error" costs the driving public 25 cents extra per gallon pumped at today's prices. The gas station collects an extra \$240 for every 1,000 gallons of gas it pumps. Hundreds of thousands of gallons are being pumped in the CNMI and that adds up to big bucks.

Our Department of Commerce is tasked with checking and testing retail outlets for accuracy of weights and measures. That department is short-handed and has little budget to do onsite check-

ing and is woefully behind in making sure each and every gas pump is calibrated and is delivering the exact amount of gas that the customer is being charged for.

Customers filling standard-sized containers, like 1 gallon or 5 gallon authorized and pre-measured gas containers often report a shortage of fuel. The container is not filled to the mark as indicated. The customer pays for one gallon but gets maybe ninth tenths of a gallon. No reports have come in of pumps dispensing too much... it is always too little which is quite a coincidence.

Our citizens deserve to know for sure that they are getting full measure when they spend their hard earned money for fuel. They need to know without a doubt that they are receiving all the gas they have paid for every time they buy fuel.

To accomplish this, we need to perform complete calibration checks on all pumps using a random schedule. It would not take long to go to each of the eight stations on island and hand check each of the pumps using a scientifically accurate calibrated container to extract a gallon or two from each pump. A pump which dispenses accurately gets a certificating sticker where customers can see and is good for one month,

or until the next random testing visit, whichever comes first. A pump that fails to provide an accurate amount is padlocked on the spot and not permitted to operate until its owner has recalibrated it and the pump has been retested by the Department of Commerce or an authorized tester.

This sounds harsh, and maybe a bit untrusting but there is a lot at stake during these hard economic times. It was an item easy to overlook back when gas was \$1.50 or \$2 per gallon. Now, as our fuel surpasses \$5 per gallon, I feel it is imperative for our government to assure the citizenry that they are being treated fairly and honestly. That means we need to task a person or persons from the Department of Commerce to perform these random testing on a regular basis. It should begin immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Your timely response will be appreciated by all the residents of the Commonwealth. You too will probably feel better the next time you pull up to that gas pump for a fill-up.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres
16th Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan

STATE

From Page 11

strategic plan. The objective of the strategic plan was to create a systematic, interactive process for thinking through and conceiving an organization's best possible future. The Court expert that we brought in to conduct the study emphasized that it is an essential element of sound management for any organization, and over the past decades, strategic planning has become a fundamental component of court management in court systems throughout the U.S. and around the world. In collaboration with the justices, judges, and staff, the Court developed, as part of the study, its unified vision statement which I would like to share with you:

"To ensure the people of the CNMI an independent Judiciary; fair, impartial, timely, sensitive and accountable judicial services; and the continuous pursuit of judicial excellence."

The study further highlighted the court's strengths and weaknesses, and provided us with reasonable time lines to achieve such goals. Of great interest to

us judges is the establishment of time standards for the judges and justices to adhere to. I see the strategic plan as being very important and historic to the future of the courts in light of the economic challenges we are facing.

I would like now to once again turn to and touch upon the need to protect, at all costs, the sanctity of judicial independence. Judicial independence is one of the most integral components of the rule of law doctrine. Basically, the concept of judicial independence is to ensure that judges or justices are not under the dominion and control of other branches of government, and therefore, comfortable to impartially and without fear administer the law, be it our constitution or statutes. But this is a fragile and brittle concept. Experience has shown that if we do not do our utmost as citizens to uphold and preserve judicial independence, the gradual assault on the judiciary over time will be serious and the rule of law will be jeopardized. The late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wisely used a metaphor from a game he loves by comparing the role of a judge "to that of a referee in a basketball game who is obliged to call a foul against

a member of a home team at a critical moment in the game: he will be soundly booed, but he is nonetheless obliged to call it as he saw it, not as the home crowds wants him to call it."

I beg for your patience as I dwell a little longer on this topic of judicial independence. It is a topic that I am very familiar with after having spent about a quarter of a century in this profession, including time spent as a member of your third branch of government. I am forced to discuss this issue after seeing several proposed pieces of legislation, including initiatives, coming from the legislature aimed at curtailing judicial independence.

Article IV Section 5 of the NMI Constitution states that justices and judges shall have a 8 and 6 year term, respectively. Section 6 again provides that the salary of a judge or justice shall not be decreased during a term of office. These provisions, my dear friends, were not intended to ensure that the judiciary be the first to dip into the pot at each payroll. They were also not intended to ensure security for judges and justices on the bench during a financial crisis. By mandating a lengthy term of office and compensation that can-

not be reduced, the founders of our Commonwealth Government sought to advance the importance of judicial independence from the legislature and the executive branch. This is a safeguard on the ability of a judge or justice to decide cases impartially without fear of retaliation.

This is one of the many works of genius in our Constitution. Imagine for one second, how life would be if our judges were insecure in their decision making authority. Imagine what would happen if a judge would bend over to appease a request of our politicians or a letter to the editor urging the judge to rule on specific issues now before the court. Imagine how a judge could potentially rule if a citizen sues the government over a civil rights violation, be it on the issue of freedom, liberty or property rights, and that judge is front and center without having the insulation of long tenure and protected income. And I say to you that it is a work of a genius by our people to insert these provisions into our constitution, because they work and have been tested in the federal and other state courts, and because our people do not want courts that are beholden to the

executive or legislature, or to any influential or special interest groups.

I am overly concerned about the recent rash of proposed legislation initiatives aimed at the judiciary. While initiatives are one good way to enact laws, we must always study carefully any proposed initiative to ensure we are firmly in full agreement in having it placed in our constitution. For once it is in, it is quite difficult to take it out; even in hard economic times.

While I cannot second guess the true intent of the creators of these proposed bills, I can only surmise that some members of the public or private sectors are not too happy about the outcomes of their cases in our court system. Again, I urge for a dialogue before any proposals of this magnitude is presented to the people for action.

Ladies and gentlemen, the decision making process is not just what you see in the courtroom you are in. It is a tedious process that involves shifting through the evidence and researching the entire jurisprudence in existence about your case. It does not just look at what is happening here in the CNMI, but also what is happening to the laws in

the 50 United States and territories. In the trial court, I know it is a lonely and lengthy process to ensure that the authorities cited and presented by the lawyers to the court are proper and correct. As I said, it is a lengthy and cumbersome process, which at the end must again be reviewed in its entirety, depending on the standard of review for that particular issue or whether we have to review procedural errors made by the court. The Supreme Court also must cautiously review the issues presented and at times re-check the cited authorities to ensure that the laws of the CNMI and, United States, as well as other states' common laws, are complied with. This again is a laborious process, but a system designed and intended to minimize the commission of errors, and not intended, in any way, to delay the issuance of an opinion or decision of the court. I, therefore, beg that before the passage of any bill that may impede the judge from doing his or her job correctly, serious and due consideration be given to request for the judiciary's input and to take into account the ramifications of such actions on the courts' decision making process.

To be continued.

Business

Anheuser-Busch reportedly OKs InBev sale

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Anheuser-Busch agreed to be acquired by Belgian brewer InBev for about \$52 billion in a deal that would shift ownership of the



In this Oct. 25, 2005 file photo, bottled and draught Budweiser beers are shown at Foley's Bar in St. Louis.

nation's largest brewer overseas, The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

The deal, which is subject to shareholders' and regulators' approval, would create the world's largest brewer and create the fourth-largest consumer product company worldwide. The newspaper cited anonymous sources who said Anheuser-Busch-InBev would be the new company's name and Anheuser would have two seats on the board.

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. did not return messages seeking comment

Sunday evening.

The newspaper said the deal was for \$70 a share, a \$5 increase over the offer Anheuser-Busch rejected in June.

InBev, the maker of Stella Artois and Becks, is the world's second-largest beer-maker behind SABMiller. Anheuser-Busch is by far the largest brewer in the U.S. with more than 48 percent of the market share.

It wasn't immediately clear how long approval might take from regulators and shareholders. Several Missouri politicians have expressed con-

cerns about the merger - especially how it would affect the approximate 6,000 people employed by Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis.

InBev has said it plans to use St. Louis as its North American headquarters, and that it will keep open all 12 of Anheuser-Busch's North American breweries.

InBev SA announced its intent to try and purchase Anheuser-Busch on June 11. The Anheuser-Busch board initially voted against the merger, calling the initial \$65 per share offer too low.

Govt not expected to help more companies

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. government is signaling it won't throw a lifeline to struggling financial companies - except for mortgage linchpins Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac - marking a shift to a new and potentially more volatile phase of the credit crisis.

Such an approach could mean beaten-down investment banks like Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and regional banks must now fend for themselves as they try to recover from billions of dollars in mortgage-related losses. That is bound to unnerve an already turbulent Wall Street and make investors even more anxious as they await financial companies' earnings reports that are

expected to be down a stunning 69 percent from a year ago when all the numbers are in.

And, for consumers already squeezed by tightening credit standards, it could mean getting a mortgage will become even harder.

The short-term uncertainty about Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae—which together hold or guarantee half the nation's mortgage debt—was to an extent relieved on Sunday. Federal officials again threw their support behind the government-sponsored enterprises; the Treasury pledged to expand its current line of credit to the two companies and the Federal Reserve said it will provide

additional loans if needed.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson also said the government could, if needed, buy equity capital in the companies, whose stocks lost half their value last week. The Treasury's moves would require congressional approval.

But, some of Wall Street's biggest investors believe there was another message in the government's announcement—the rest of the financial sector seems unlikely to get a helping hand. Global banks and brokerages have already written down nearly \$300 billion in soured mortgage investments—a number projected to ultimately reach \$1 trillion.

Sen. Schumer defends comments on IndyMac collapse

NEW YORK (AP)—Sen. Charles Schumer on Sunday defended himself against claims by regulators that he was partially to blame for a run on IndyMac Bancorp Inc. that led to the bank's takeover by the government Friday. At a news conference Sunday, the New York Democrat de-

flected blame cast upon him by regulators for causing a run on the bank that saw depositors withdraw more than \$1.3 billion during the 11 days after Schumer released a letter about the possible risks of IndyMac failing. "The regulator here was asleep at the switch," Schumer said. "The

administration is doing what they always do, blaming the fire on the person who called 9-1-1." Schumer noted his letter in late June provided "no new revelations" about IndyMac, and instead pointed out the bank's problems had been building for years.

Federal govt spells out Fannie-Freddie backstop plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury announced steps Sunday to shore up mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, whose shares have plunged as losses from their mortgage holdings threatened their financial survival. The Federal Reserve

said it granted the Federal Reserve Bank of New York authority to lend to the two companies "should such lending prove necessary." If the companies did borrow directly from the Fed, they would pay 2.25 percent—the same rate given to commercial banks and Big Wall Street firms.

Secretary Henry Paulson said the Treasury is seeking authority to expand its current line of credit to the two companies should they need to tap it and to make an equity investment in the companies—if needed. Such moves will require congressional approval.

SEC opens probe to prevent spread of false info

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Securities and Exchange Commission said Sunday it is immediately opening a probe to prevent the spread of false information used to manipulate securities prices. SEC Chairman Christopher Cox said the investigation is

aimed at "ensuring that investors continue to get reliable, accurate information about public companies in the marketplace." The probe comes amid a new bout of turmoil that has gripped investors. Questions have been swirling about the financial health of mortgage

giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as well as Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. Earlier this year, a run on Bear Stearns pushed the investment bank to the brink of bankruptcy and into a takeover by JPMorgan Chase. Bear officials blamed market rumors for the run.

Wall Street's woes escalate ahead of earnings wave

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors can't seem to catch a break—Wall Street again starts a week with oil prices at their highest levels yet, and banks poised to reveal that they remain on shaky footing.

None of the troubles that have rocked the market over the past year have let up yet: not the housing market, not high commodities costs, not the ailing financial system.

"We've got a fistful of drivers that are working against the market," said Arthur

Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. "And they're all important."

It's a different collection of worries than the ones that hurled stocks lower at the beginning of the decade, after the technology bubble burst and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks sent the country reeling. But many on Wall Street are worried that the effects of the country's current problems could end up being just as devastating, or more so, for stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average

dropped below 11,000 for the first time in nearly two years before settling at 11,100.54 Friday. The blue-chip index ended the week down 1.67 percent; the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.28 percent; and the Nasdaq composite index fell 1.85 percent.

The three indexes are firmly entrenched in bear market territory, down more than 20 percent from their peaks last fall. The average bear market ultimately leads to a drop of about 30 percent, Hogan said.

FHB's Tamuning branch sets Aug. grand opening

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank's Tamuning Branch will soon have a new address in town. On Aug. 4, the Tamuning Branch will be relocating from its current location at Photo Town Plaza suite 101, 353 Chalan San Antonio Road to a brand new branch facility located at 645 Route 1 on South Marine Corps Drive. The existing Tamuning Branch will close permanently at the close of business on Friday, Aug. 1. The new Tamuning Branch will officially open for business Monday, Aug. 4, at 9am.

A grand opening celebration to introduce the branch and its staff in their new location will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 9am to 1pm.

The public is invited to join in on the festivities which include live entertainment featuring 13-year-old Ryan Imamura and Natibu, balloons for the kids, free giveaways, special bank offers, and the opportunity to sign up for a grand prize trip to Hawaii for a family of five from Continental Airlines, including hotel accommodations from Outrigger Resort Guam. Other prizes include:

- 1st Prize: 150,000 Continental Airlines OnePass Miles;
- 2nd Prize: 40,000 Continental Airlines OnePass Miles; and
- 3rd Prize: 21,000 Continental Air-

lines OnePass Miles.

The new Tamuning Branch will be larger than the current facility in Chalan San Antonio. The building has an island theme, two drive-up teller lanes, a drive-up ATM lane, and 76 parking stalls. It will feature state-of-the-art banking equipment that will enable First Hawaiian Bank employees to make quicker credit decisions and deliver more deposit convenience. The full-service platforms will provide investment, private banking, personal banking, and new business banking services to meet all the financial needs of First Hawaiian Bank customers in one convenient location.

"The new full-service branch will have expanded services, enabling our staff to provide a higher level of banking services for our clients. We look forward to welcome both current and new customers to our beautiful new branch," said Peter Valdez, vice president and Tamuning Branch manager.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of \$12.75 billion was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. This year the bank is celebrating 150 Years in business, including 38 years on Guam. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. (FHB)

Nation

Heavy rains complicate firefighting efforts



Shanon Elam walks through the burned out remains of a neighbor's home, destroyed by the Butte Lightning Complex Fire earlier in the week, in Concow, Calif., Saturday, July 12, 2008.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Violent thunderstorms brought rain bursts that modestly helped firefighting efforts Sunday, but the downpours also triggered mudslides that complicated California's unfolding wildfire disaster.

"If it isn't fire, it's flood. If it isn't fire or flood, it's the mud," said Christina Lilienthal, an interagency fire spokeswoman. A "horrendous" amount of precipitation in the Sequoia National Forest dampened the ground, but also caused a creek to flood, cutting off a firefighting crew's escape route when a road washed out, she said.

The firefighters didn't need the escape route, because fires burn-

ing nearby did not threaten them. They moved to higher ground as a precaution against the rising waters, Lilienthal said.

But the 59 firefighters could not reach their camp Saturday evening, stranding them in the field overnight, Lilienthal said. They reopened the road Sunday afternoon, amid new threats of erratic winds and falling trees weakened by the soft ground.

A huge mudslide in an area that was devastated by wildfires last year damaged about 50 homes and caused the temporary closure of a main road in the California town of Independence on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Severe thunderstorms Saturday set

off the mudslide, which was 300 yards wide and up to three feet deep, said Carma Roper, spokeswoman for the Inyo County Sheriff's Department.

The slide oozed near California Highway 395 - reducing it to one open lane - and came within a half mile of the Los Angeles Aqueduct which supplies much of Los Angeles' water. Joe Ramallo, a spokesman for the department, said the aqueduct was not harmed.

Residents of more than 50 homes were evacuated, Roper said. The rain did nothing to help fires, which were not burning in that easternmost corner of California.

And no rain fell on most of the other California fires. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said 288 blazes were still burning around the state, most in the mountains ringing the northern edge of the Central Valley.

There was no rain in Butte County, north of Sacramento, where thousands of homes were threatened as recently as Friday. But moist air and calmer winds Sunday morning helped firefighting efforts in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Thousands of people who were evacuated from their homes twice in the past month began returning to Paradise for the first time since Tuesday.

Rescued Colombia hostages head home to Florida

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Three Americans freed after being held more than five years by rebels in Colombia gave thanks Saturday and urged people to not forget other hostages who were left behind.

They headed home to Florida after 10 days of treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston.

"We're going to go home now, we're going to rest, we're going to unwind for about a month and a half," said Marc

Gonsalves, who boarded a plane with Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell. The men had been held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, since their drug surveillance plane went down in the jungle in February 2003.

They were rescued by the Colombian military on July 2, when undercover agents tricked the leftist rebels into handing them over. Kidnapped presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt and 11 Colombian police and

soldiers also were released.

Stansell, Gonsalves and Howes faced reporters before boarding the plane, but asked for privacy after they return home.

"Remember that today, for the first time, we're going home. There's family members that are waiting for us," Stansell said. "Just imagine if you hadn't seen your family in 5 1/2 years. ... Let us go home and be family men again."

Stansell, who along with Gon-

salves proudly displayed a new Florida driver's licenses, urged people—the media in particular—to remember the hostages still being held by FARC.

"Don't forget the people that are still there," Stansell said. "Because of our rescue, there are fellow hostages that are still there. Some have 10 years—right this minute, right this minute, they're in chains, looking for food and they're on the run. Their families haven't seen them for 10 years."

Search for adventurer Fossett resumes in Nevada

BRIDGEPORT, Calif. (AP)—The search for multimillionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, who vanished in September after taking off by plane from a remote Nevada ranch, is set to resume Monday in rugged mountains on the California-Nevada line where he may have crashed.

The 10-member team of elite athletes and expert mountaineers is headed by Simon Donato, a Canadian geologist

whose avocation is adventure racing through wilderness areas around the world. He's focusing on remote, wooded areas near where the 63-year-old Fossett was last seen - areas that could have concealed wreckage from the crews of the many private and military planes that searched last year.

"Whether we luck out and find the wreckage or not, at least our tracks will be preserved so that in the future if

someone wants to give this a try they'll know where we already were and they can go to the next mountain range over," Donato said in a week-end interview at a base camp between the Bodie Hills and Sweetwater Mountains.

The search area, with peaks ranging from 10,000 to more than 11,000 feet in elevation, is just east of the even higher Sierra Nevada and about 110 miles south of Reno, Nev. Because

the area is close to the ranch of hotel magnate Baron Hilton, where Fossett was staying, Donato believes it's the best place to search.

Search team members, who are paying their own way, began arriving Friday to set up camp. The team will continue its efforts through this coming Friday and possibly Saturday, covering 15 to 20 miles a day depending on the terrain, Donato said.



ACROSS THE NATION

Obama mourns 9 US troop deaths

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Barack Obama mourned the death of nine U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan on Sunday, even as he said John McCain's numerous visits to the region don't leave the Republican better equipped to deal with its volatility as president. Obama opened his news conference with a tribute to the soldiers, who were killed in a raid by militants in eastern Kunar province, the deadliest single attack for the U.S. since June 2005. Fourteen more U.S. troops were injured. "The main thing I want to communicate is that our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these extraordinary heroes," Obama said. "And we need to make sure that we're providing them with every bit of support that we can." The Illinois senator has called for redeploying U.S. forces from Iraq to Afghanistan, a point he underscored Sunday.

Governors talk of moving beyond corn-based ethanol

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Governors from the coal fields of West Virginia to the corn fields of Iowa talked Sunday at their summer meeting about moving beyond ethanol produced just from food sources. They sometimes have different priorities in reaching this conclusion and they're also not talking about replacement so much as supplementing. Still, the conversation - including an energy forum Sunday - has big implications. The nation has 134 ethanol plants in 26 states with 77 more under construction or expanding, according to the Renewable Fuels Association, a trade group for the ethanol industry. This year's corn crop, expected to be a record, is worth about \$52 billion.

Bill Clinton warns of growing polarization

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Former President Bill Clinton warned Saturday that the country is becoming increasingly polarized despite the historic nature of the Democratic primary. Speaking at the National Governors Association's semiannual meeting, Clinton noted that on the one hand, following the early stages of the Democratic primary, "the surviving candidates were an African-American man and a woman." Clinton's wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, battled for the Democratic nomination into June with fellow Democrat Barack Obama, son of a white mother and black father. But this achievement was overshadowed by a growing distance between Americans, said Clinton.

Border fence concerns Rio Grande defenders

MISSION, Texas (AP)—The federal government's border fence plans in South Texas have been attacked by property owners, wildlife advocates and land conservationists. The next wave of opponents could come from the water—and they're carrying paddles.

Kayakers and canoeists will descend on the lower Rio Grande for events this fall aimed at raising the river's profile as a recreation hub and at drawing attention to the impact the border fence could have by blocking access to the river.

The Rio Grande forms Texas' 1,255-mile border with Mexico from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico. But most of the river, with the notable exception of Big Bend National Park, is forgotten by the state's tens of thousands of recreational paddlers. Those who do use the river share the water with Border Patrol agents patrolling in bulletproof vests and with smugglers of drugs and people.

In a recent letter to Roma Mayor Rogelio Ybarra, the president of the Texas Rivers Protection Association expressed his support for a planned river festival and his concern about the border fence. But perhaps most telling was the clear illustration of how novel the idea of using the lower Rio Grande was

even for people dedicated to the state's rivers.

"It has come to our attention recently that the Lower Rio Grande is indeed a safe and legal place to paddle, and that rights for all U.S. citizens to do so are guaranteed by the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo," association president Tom Goynes wrote. "It's ironic that we only learned that the resource was available to us as a result of the government's plans to take it away."

Los Caminos del Rio, a non-profit group based in McAllen, recognizes that its Healthy Living Festival planned for Nov. 1—to capitalize on any attention the border could receive before the national election three days later—is unlikely to affect the 85 miles of border fence slated for completion in Texas this year.

While not backing off its fence plans, the Border Patrol supports Los Caminos's efforts to get more people on the river.

"The more eyes we have out there, the better job we can do," said Dan Doty, spokesman for the local Border Patrol sector.

For Los Caminos del Rio, more legal activity on the river—kayaking, canoeing, fishing—will discourage the illegal smuggling activity.

Asia

9 Americans killed in Afghanistan attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A multi-pronged militant assault on a small, remote U.S. base close to the Pakistan border killed nine American soldiers and wounded 15 Sunday in the deadliest attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan in three years, officials said.

The attack on the American troops began around 4:30 a.m. and lasted throughout the day. Militants fired machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars from homes and a mosque in the village of Wanat in the mountainous northeastern province of Kunar, NATO's In-

ternational Security Assistance Force said in a statement.

"Although no final assessment has been made, it is believed insurgents suffered heavy casualties during several hours of fighting," NATO said in a statement.

U.S. officials say militant attacks in Afghanistan are becom-

ing more complex, intense and better coordinated than a year ago. Monthly death tolls of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan surpassed U.S. military deaths in Iraq in May and June. And last Monday, a suicide bomber attacked the Indian Embassy in Kabul, killing 58 people in the deadliest attack in the Afghan

capital since 2001.

U.S. officials are considering drawing down additional forces from Iraq in coming months, in part because of the need for additional U.S. troops in Afghanistan. U.S. officials have said they need at least three more brigades in Afghanistan - or more than 10,000 troops.

NATO confirmed nine of its soldiers had been killed and 15 wounded. A Western official said the nine dead were Americans, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the troops' nationalities. Four Afghan soldiers also were wounded, NATO said.

ABS-CBN secretly shot video of 3 journalists' kidnappers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine TV network has broadcast videos shot secretly by one of its crews while they were abducted by suspected Muslim militants, offering a glimpse into their jungle ordeal including threats to behead one of them.

ABS-CBN aired the videos late Sunday in a documentary titled "Kidnap," partly to help police on southern Jolo island identify the kidnappers of news anchor Ces Drilon and two cameramen, who were released last month after a ransom was paid.



Drilon

Recounting her 10-day captivity, Drilon said in the documentary that she was ready to kill any militant who might have tried to rape her.

"I was thinking I would really have to kill if somebody attempted," said Drilon, a familiar face on Philippine TV for her coverage of coup attempts and Muslim insurgents in the volatile south.

"Before I slept, I looked around to check where the long knife was because I thought it would be easier to use than a gun," she said, wiping away tears.

Cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion said the kidnappers bound his hands at one point and made him kneel on the ground, preparing to behead him as a deadline loomed for the ransom payment. He said he was praying and weeping when the phone rang and the militants were told that the ransom was on the way.

The three journalists were kidnapped June 8 while hiking with a local guide in Jolo's hinterlands in a failed attempt to interview Radulan Sahiron, a commander of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf who is being hunted by U.S.-backed troops.

S. Korea proposes talks with North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A ruling party leader in South Korea proposed Monday holding parliamentary talks with North Korea to resolve tension caused by the shooting death of a tourist near a mountain resort in the North.

Hong Joon-pyo, floor leader of the Grand National Party, told parliament the communist North should also actively cooperate in an investigation into the death of the 53-year-old housewife, saying

that is necessary to prevent a further chill in relations between the divided nations.

The shooting "paradoxically shows why South-North reconciliation is necessary," Hong said. "However, government-level South-North talks have been suspended and I think the National Assembly should take the initiative in making a breakthrough."

Hong proposed "political talks" with the North to discuss

the shooting and other broader issues such as a peace on the Korean peninsula and food aid to the North.

Relations between the Koreas have worsened after a North Korean soldier fatally shot the South Korean tourist Friday near the North's Diamond Mountain resort. South Korea has criticized the North for killing an innocent civilian, calling on the North to allow an inquiry by the South.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tropical depression threatens Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine weather bureau is warning residents in the country's north to brace for possible flash floods and landslides as a tropical depression approaches. The low pressure area is packing winds of 34 miles (55 kilometers) per hour, but is expected to strengthen into a tropical storm by the time it nears Basco town in the northernmost Batanes group of islands Thursday. A typhoon last month killed more than 500 people across the archipelago nation, not including more than 850 passengers and crew who died inside a ferry when it capsized off central Sibuyan island June 21.

Strong quake rocks northern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A strong earthquake rocked a group of islands between the northern Philippines and Taiwan, causing aftershocks but no reports of damage or casualties. The U.S. Geological Survey says Sunday night's undersea quake in the Luzon Strait, centered about 70 miles northwest of Basco town in Batanes islands, registered 6.1. It was followed by a 4.6-magnitude aftershock. The Philippine seismological agency put the magnitude of the first quake at 6.0 and said it struck at 10:58 p.m. Sunday.

Taiwanese men missing off Madagascar

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Two Taiwanese officials were in Madagascar to join a search for eight businessmen from Taiwan who went missing in a boat that reportedly sank off the African nation, an official said Monday. China's official Xinhua News Agency said the fishing boat, carrying eight Taiwanese, one Chinese and six crew members from Madagascar, sank after reporting engine problems on Friday. It quoted the Chinese consul in Madagascar, Xu Jinlong, as saying two crew members had been rescued but that the others had not been found. The businessmen took the boat out last Friday to inspect a commercial fishing ground off northeastern Madagascar but then lost contact with their families.

Fire bomb thrown at US Consulate General

TOKYO (AP)—An assailant threw a homemade firebomb into the U.S. consulate compound on

the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, home to most of the American troops based in Japan, but nobody was injured in the attack, police said. The Molotov cocktail fell in the garden inside the compound and burned itself out, Okinawan police official Yasuhiko Yoshinaga said. He declined to give further details. A local resident told police that a person driving a black motorbike fled the scene after the attack. Okinawa, located 1,000 miles south of Tokyo, is home to more than half the 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan and is considered a linchpin in the American military posture in Asia.

500 Nepalese riot police end revolt

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—About 500 Nepalese riot police who revolted and took their senior officers hostage to protest poor working conditions released their captives and surrendered after a two-day standoff, officials said Monday. Seven senior police officers were released unharmed just after midnight Sunday, said Narendra Sharma, chief government administrator in the area. The armed policemen took over a training camp Saturday at Nepalgunj, about 310 miles west of Katmandu. They were protesting alleged ill treatment of lower-ranking officers by their supervisors, low-quality food and other issues. Hundreds of police surrounded the camp Sunday after the government ordered an immediate end to the standoff, Sharma said.

Working hours to shift for Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Public institutions in Beijing will soon start work an hour later than normal in a plan to ease traffic congestion during the Olympic Games, state media said Monday. Working hours in Beijing will change from July 20 in a bid to spread out morning traffic by staggering office openings and to reduce pollution, the China Daily newspaper said. The government also is encouraging people to work flexible hours or work from home if possible, it said. Working hours for companies will be set from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Public institutions will begin work at 9:30 a.m., one hour later than normal. Shopping malls will open no earlier than 10 a.m. and stay open longer, until 10 p.m. or even later. Schools, administrative bodies and essential service sectors are exempt from the changes, the paper said.



Malaysian police officers check a car at the entrance of Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, July 14, 2008.

Malaysian police close down Parliament

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police locked down Parliament on Monday with roadblocks and massive security to prevent an anticipated rally by supporters of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who is awaiting interrogation on a sodomy accusation.

Anwar's party, however, said it was not planning a protest.

Anwar's questioning later Monday was to coincide with an opposition demand for an emergency debate in Parliament on

what it says is the public's lack of confidence in the government.

The police action against the opposition is likely to increase political tensions, already high amid Anwar's threat to bring down the government by mid-September even as he fights the sodomy allegation.

The debate is not the same as a no-confidence vote, but the speaker was still not expected to allow it. In the past, almost every opposition motion has been rejected on grounds of

being non-urgent or not in the public interest.

Anwar, who is not a member of Parliament, was supposed to witness the session from the visitors' gallery before going to a police station for questioning.

But police obtained a court order barring Anwar as well as the public from coming within three miles of Parliament. Copies of the court order were pasted in public places. Members of Parliament were also told not to bring guests to witness the session.

World

US pleased, worried, by Iraqi confidence

BAGHDAD (AP)—Wajih Hameed is an Iraqi general with an attitude.

With a satisfied look, he listened as a subordinate officer explained to the deputy commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad how he plans to reposition his troops in the coming weeks.

"Before, they would have asked us to propose a plan" in such a circumstance and then would have accepted it with little argument, said Brig. Gen. Will Grimsley, who led a group of American officers to Hameed's office on Thursday. "Now they are telling us how they will do it,"

he said in an interview afterward.

Hameed's swagger sometimes grates on American officers. But Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond sees it as a hopeful sign the Iraqi army - generals and soldiers alike - has reached a new level of self-confidence, pointing the way toward truly independent Iraqi forces and, eventually, an exit for U.S. combat troops.

The flip side is that the Americans feel their control slipping away. This feeds a worry that Iraqi security forces either will set themselves up for a catastrophic failure or might even

decide - at some point when the Americans largely have departed - that the country would be better off under military rule.

For now, the new assertiveness by generals such as Hameed, who commands all Iraqi soldiers in the western part of the capital, is welcomed. "They have a self-confidence now that they didn't have when (I) first arrived" last fall, Hammond, the top commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad, said in an interview. The Iraqi army, he said, was largely limited as recently as last winter to manning checkpoints and "they

were struggling with that."

What changed?

Hammond and nearly a dozen other American military officers said in a series of Associated Press interviews this past week that the key was the Iraqis' sudden and largely unexpected leap into hard battle

in Basra in March, followed by offensives in the northern city of Mosul and the Sadr City section of Baghdad ending in May.

The Iraqi army faltered initially in the Basra offensive, but the outcome seemed transformative for the Iraqis.

"They are confident in their

ability to stand up and take on increasing missions," said Grimsley, Hammond's deputy. That will be put to the test soon as the Iraqis prepare to take on a resilient insurgency in other parts of the country, perhaps including Diyala, northeast of Baghdad.

Assad sits out Olmert speech in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Syria's president sat out the Israeli prime minister's speech to a Paris summit Sunday in an apparent rebuff just hours after Ehud Olmert urged Damascus to open direct peace talks, Israeli officials said.

Syrian leader Bashar Assad also did not shake hands with Olmert at a meeting of more than 40 European, African and Middle Eastern states in the French capital to launch a new Mediterranean union aimed at closer cooperation in the region.

"We are not seeking symbols," Assad said on French television, adding he avoided a handshake with Olmert be-

cause the two nations are still only in indirect peace talks.

Nevertheless, Assad agreed to sit down with Olmert at the same table in a historic first for



Assad



Olmert

the enemy states: Never before had the leaders of the two countries been so close.

There had been some buzz before the one-day summit about whether the two men might make history by shaking hands

or meeting one-on-one. Israeli officials were openly skeptical: Even though the two countries recently resumed peace talks, mediated by Turkey, after an eight-year breakdown, Syria had long resisted meetings at the highest level.

But that did not come to pass. And two Israeli officials said Assad was absent from the enormous room in the ornate Grand Palais exhibition hall when Olmert got up to address leaders at the summit. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss matters with diplomatic implications.

There was no official Israeli reaction to the apparent snub.

Man charged in attack on US consulate

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)—Authorities arrested and charged a man Sunday for his alleged involvement in an attack on the U.S. consulate in Istanbul, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported.

The man, identified only as Dursun P., was being held on a charge of membership in a terror organization, the agency said.

It was not immediately clear what role he is alleged to have played in the July 9 attack, in

which gunmen opened fire on police guarding the consulate building, killing three officers. Three attackers also died in a shootout with police.

The suspect is the first to be formally arrested in the investigation. The agency reported that police said they charged two other people, but did not specify what the charges were. The two were released pending court hearings.

Istanbul Governor Muammer

Guler said Sunday that 12 people in total have been detained for questioning as part of the investigation into the attack.

No further information about the suspects was available, and court officials in Istanbul refused comment.

Authorities and reports have said the suspects included a man who allegedly drove the attackers to the consulate, and another who allegedly held several telephone calls with the attackers.

Drought hurting vital Australian wheat

POOCHERA, Australia (AP)—Glen Phillips kneels down, scoops up a handful of dirt and squashes it in his fist to test whether the soil in this dry patch of the Australian Outback is ready to take a crop of wheat.

"It should clump together when you squeeze," says Phillips, whose family has lived off the land on the edge of the Great Australian Bight since 1949. "That's how you know it's good to plant, it's moist enough to hold the roots."

He opens his hand and the earth sifts dustily between his fin-

gers. Phillips looks up, lifts his hat slightly and squints into an empty blue sky with no sign of rain.

"We'll plant anyway," he says. "We don't have a choice."

One of Australia's worst droughts on record is hurting wheat farming just as the world needs it most. Australia is usually the world's third or fourth-largest exporter of wheat. But exports dropped 46 percent from 2005 to 2006, then fell 24 percent last year.

Most of its exports go to the Middle East and Southeast Asia to make bread and cereals, but

the fall in supply has led to a spike in prices. A ton of Australian wheat now costs \$367, compared with \$258 in early 2007, an increase poor countries can ill afford.

"When they pay high prices, they pass on an increase to their poorest people, who can no longer afford it," says Kunhamboo Kanan, director of agriculture, environment and natural resources at the Asian Development Bank. "Just look at Egypt." Riots over rising bread prices and shortages have led to at least 10 deaths in Egypt this year.



Children play at a park in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

Israel to swap prisoners with Hezbollah

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli government said it will swap prisoners with the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah on Wednesday, closing a chapter between the enemies two years after they fought an inconclusive war.

The prison service said Sunday Israel would free five Lebanese, including the perpetrator of one of the most notorious attacks in Israeli history. In exchange, Hezbollah will return two soldiers it captured in a cross-border raid that sparked the 2006 war. Israel believes the soldiers are dead.

After nearly two years of negotiations through German mediators, Israel's government approved the release on June

29, but it took several weeks to work out final arrangements. The Israeli announcement came a day after the government received a report from Hezbollah on a missing Israeli soldier who disappeared in Lebanon two decades ago. That report was one of the last sticking points.

In the report, Hezbollah said it does not know what happened to Ron Arad, an Israeli air force navigator who was captured alive after his fighter jet went down in Lebanon in 1986, Israeli officials said.

According to the document, Hezbollah believes that Arad is dead, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the report was not released to the public. The Israeli

Cabinet is expected to discuss the report on Tuesday.

Israeli officials said the report contains two new pictures of Arad and parts of a diary he kept in the 1980s. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the material has not been made public, said the diary and the pictures had only "sentimental value" and did not shed light on Arad's fate. The Hezbollah report offered some new lines of inquiry, but no definite information, they said.

A letter from Arad was delivered to his family during that time and a videotaped message Arad recorded in the late 1980s was released several years ago. But he has not been heard from since then.

Overdrive

Light, nimble and gosh-darn cute

By SUSAN CARPENTER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Buddy may be the best Vespa knockoff on the market. That's saying something because so many scooters these days are attempting to emulate the famed Italian marque and style.

The brand making the scooter: Genuine, which is funny for a bike that is so shamelessly trying to be something else. But genuine also describes the appreciation I have for this small company's "new vintage" model and the cult following its scooters have generated in the six years it's been in business.

Genuine Scooter Co., whose two-wheelers are made in Taiwan, is based in Chicago. The company was founded in 2002 by self-described scooter dork Philip McCaleb, who saw a market for old-looking bikes with modern technology, though what's happening right now his crystal ball could not possibly have foreseen.

Genuine's sales are up 122 percent this year, according to McCaleb, and that's on the heels of five successive years of 45 percent annual growth. With anticipated North American sales of 11,000 for 2008,

Genuine will be selling more scooters in the U.S. than Ducati sells motorcycles.

I spent the last week running around with my new Buddy to find out why. As with many bikes, I was a skeptic when I saw it. Yet another Vespa wannabe, I thought when I took in its curvaceous Euro bodywork. Then I looked a little closer. For a bike that costs only \$3,099, I was impressed with the fit and finish. The chrome and plastic didn't look chintzy, as I was expecting. In fact, there were a lot of nice styling cues, such as the elegant and easy-to-read analog dash, the whitewall tires and the color-matched rims, paint and saddle.

I was riding the new Saint-Tropez version of the Buddy—one of three International models Genuine's introduced in two-toned color schemes intended for Europhiles of both sexes.

The Vespa-like Genuine Saint-Tropez, in two-tone blue, is one of three International models.
LOS ANGELES TIMES



No one would mistake them for a real Vespa, but they are all quite pretty. What I most enjoyed about my Genuine Buddy, though, was its power and handling. Lightweight and low to the ground, it was stable and easy to throw around.

It also had a good amount of

zip from a dead stop and enough juice on the top end that I spent almost all my miles astride the bike on the freeway. My top speed was 75 mph, although as with all 150cc scooters I've tested that speed is not sustainable.

The motor in the Saint-Tropez is proprietary to Genuine's Tai-

wanese manufacturing partner and is based on similar engines from Honda and Yamaha, according to McCaleb. Like most other scooters in its displacement range, it's also carbureted, rather than fuel-injected. Still, it's very fuel efficient because the engine is so darn small. I

was getting 71 miles to the gallon on the Saint-Tropez in the 284 miles I rode it. I probably would have gotten even more if I'd stayed on city streets because this scooter is meant as an urban runabout and doesn't have a windshield or other aerodynamic features to reduce the drag that comes from pushing an upright body through the wind at high speeds.

I don't recommend that new riders take the Saint-Tropez on the freeway. As with all two-wheeled vehicles, there are visibility issues. Drivers often don't see you. That's the main reason why Genuine uses a Stebel air horn instead of the wimpy bleat that passes for a horn on most bikes. It's about the last sound you'd expect to hear from a bike so cuddly, and using it was kind of irresistible.

I found the Saint-Tropez as a whole rather irresistible. And in that I am not alone. Genuine Buddy scooters of all sizes and stripes, like many other makes and models, are back-ordered and have already been pre-sold at most local dealerships because of escalating gas prices and high consumer demand. So, if you want one, you'll have to put down a deposit and get in line.

Or wait until early '09, when Genuine wheels out its first 200cc model, which will be fuel-injected and 5 percent more mileage-efficient than its carbureted pals.

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MILAN, Italy—Cute? Think a bunny in bib overalls, a box of bright yellow Easter chicks, a cement mixer full of Christmas kittens. Oh, my God. The Fiat 500—also known as Cinquecento, which is Italian for coed flypaper—is about as adorable as it gets.

I belong to the Merry Fools for Fiat Club. My first car was a 1971 Fiat Spider, whose crankshaft went China syndrome on me the day after I bought it. Rebuilt it, blew it up again, rebuilt it, crashed it. Arrivederci, Spider.

My next car was a Fiat 131 sedan, a sensational-handling car that—though I didn't know it at the time—was the precursor to hot compact sedans like the Mitsubishi Evo and Subaru WRX. The 131 was taken away from me when I was spotted coming around a corner on two wheels. You cannot begin to imagine the sense of demotion I felt when I got into a Datsun B210.

So I've got my Fix-It-Again-Tony stripes, and I acknowledge partisanship. Still,

The mini-splendored Fiat



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Fiat 500, reviving the classic look of the postwar Nuova 500, is a car America could really use.

if I could magically open a Fiat dealership in Santa Monica with 500s on the lot, I could be a rich man in California. This is the car Los Angeles has been panting for.

A loving and faithful riff on the classic rear-engine Nuova 500 of postwar Italy, the 500

yanks the same heartstrings of misty nostalgia as the BMW Mini and Volkswagen New Beetle. The operative alchemy is to take the shape, the profile, the conformation of a historic car, in every sense an icon, then make it bigger, enamelize it with modern aerodynamics, instill a

sense of winking irony to it, and stick it on a cheap, well-sorted platform.

The 500 is based on the Fiat Panda platform and is, mechanically, an unremarkable front-drive subcompact with remarkable fuel economy. With gas selling for around \$8 per gallon

on the Continent, the Panda has been a big hit for Fiat. The 500—Europe's Car of the Year, a kind of Panda with a post-grad education—has been even bigger.

Available with 1.2- and 1.4-liter gas engines and an excellent 1.3-liter turbo-diesel (five- and six-speed manual transmissions), the 500 would represent, for the American driver, something of an adjustment. I drove the turbo-diesel (68 hp, 107 pound-feet of torque) from Milan to Modena a couple of weeks ago, and the car requires a considerable winding of the big key in its back to get it to accelerate. I had to adjust my driving style to allow for the more leisurely pace. On the other hand, once ramped up, the thing cruised along the autostrada at over 100 mph while getting about 45 miles per gallon. Such are the marvels of a 2,150-pound curb weight.

The car is squat and wide, with a well-planted feel that surprises, given its toylike proportions. The power steering has a city-assist switch that increases boost, to allow for easier parking. Obviously, the 500 is no sports car, but it's got

a lively, wide-awake feel at the tiller that is part of its overall vividness.

The bubble-like cabin is spacious, with loads of sit-upright room in the front seats and usable room for two in the back (the rear seat back is bolt upright to yield a few precious inches to the luggage compartment). The interior styling is Milanese retro-modern, with a lovely satiny Bakelite material covering the dash. An oversized, Mini-like instrument cluster combines the speedometer and tachometer readouts.

Like the Mini—except about \$5,000 cheaper to start—the 500 has the kind of design that makes owning it an occasion. It's fun to look at, fun to drive, fun to point out to the valet. It all goes to the fact that cheap cars need not be bitter pills of self-denial.

The prospects for the Fiat 500 (built in Poland, by the way) being sold in the United States are pretty iffy, but the odds are improving. In the current climate, a small, super-efficient car with global charisma—one that undercuts the BMW Mini—might present Fiat with, as they say in certain quarters, an offer it cannot refuse.

Life & Style

Mandela at 90: Fading away but still revered

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) -- He wore a trendy black shirt just like many of the kids in the crowd. But Nelson Mandela moved slowly, leaning on his wife and on a white cane as he crossed the stage to adoring cheers.

Public appearances like the one at the London rock concert in honor of his birthday are rare these days for the anti-apartheid icon. Mandela jokes he has "retired from retirement," but this time it sounds serious. The majestic figure the world saw walking out of prison to freedom 18 years ago is now gray-haired, frail and for the

There are occasional bumps, some sharp. But overall, the Mandela era has confounded doomsayers at home and abroad who doubted South Africa's races could live together under black rule.

After changing his country so profoundly, then turning his energies during his first "retirement" to tackling problems like AIDS, Mandela has left the stage to younger leaders. But South Africa and the world seem reluctant to let him fade into retirement.

When crises break out - the collapse of neighboring Zimbabwe, a crime wave at home,

best things that could have happened to the country," she says, using the clan name by which South Africans affectionately refer to Mandela.

Mandela has given no interview in years. Increasingly, he leaves the pronouncements on world affairs to officials of the foundation he established upon retiring. Last month, when he spoke up about Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe's rampage against democratic change, he did it at a private dinner in London, and his remarks, conveyed by his aides, seemed relatively mild.

He called Zimbabwe's

Freedom," that he chose to recreate the home because he knew it well and "would not have to wander at night looking for the kitchen."

Mandela has been married three times. Winnie, his second wife, has been active in politics since their 1996 divorce. He spends much of the year in Maputo, the relaxed seaside capital of neighboring Mozambique, homeland of this third wife, Graca Machel, in a home filled with her grandchildren and his.

However sheltered his life has become, Mandela remains a vivid presence for many South Africans, white and black. Despite 5 percent annual economic growth achieved under his successor, Thabo Mbeki, half the population still lives in poverty, unemployment is 25 percent, crime is rampant, and whenever things look especially bleak, the instinct seems to be that things would be different under Mandela.

The racial gap which Mandela sought by word and example to narrow is still glaring in the richer neighborhoods, where whites own the homes and blacks do the gardening. Their children attend the same



AP

In this March 27, 1998 file photo, President Clinton and South African President Nelson Mandela peer through the bars of prison cell No. 5, the cramped, gray cell where Mandela was jailed for 18 years in his struggle against apartheid on Robben Island, South Africa.

classes—one of many post-apartheid reforms—and white parents marvel at how well they get along. But they also see the vast gap between the white children's toy-filled homes and the one-room servants' quarters of their black schoolmates.

Still, most South Africans would agree that life is better than before Mandela came to power—less volatile, more fair, less uncertain, more democratic. Only a few cranks try to justify

apartheid in public.

In his remarks in London, he concluded with words to the young, saying "It is now in the hands of your generations to help rid the world of such suffering."

He could have been referring to people like Ntobeko Peni, a black man who once believed all whites in South Africa were the enemy, and now says he learned from Mandela to value them as partners in nation-building.



AP

In this May 10, 1994 file photo, President Nelson Mandela dances at a celebration concert following his inauguration as president of South Africa in Pretoria.

most part silent as he reaches his 90th birthday Friday.

When he turned 89 on July 18, 2007, Mandela celebrated by announcing the founding of a "council of elders"—fellow Nobel peace laureates, politicians and development gurus pooling their wisdom and influence to tackle global crises. Elders have since jetted to Darfur and the Middle East—but Mandela has stayed at home.

As South Africa's first black president—he only ran for one term—Mandela ushered in a democratic, multiracial society that is still going peaceful and strong.

or violence against African immigrants over jobs and housing - South Africans expect to hear from Mandela.

"I want this great leader to come back," said Stephen Miller, a composer. "It's extraordinary nostalgia."

Faith van den Heever epitomizes the epic changes South Africa has undergone. She is a white woman who coaches young blacks at rugby, a sport blacks once universally associated with whites, and reveres a man who used to be reviled by the white leadership as a communist and a terrorist.

"I feel Madiba is one of the

agony a "tragic failure of leadership"—very different from the harsh language he used against the United States in 2003, when he accused it of committing "unspeakable atrocities in the world."

Mandela will spend his birthday privately with family in Qunu, his boyhood village 600 miles south of Johannesburg. There, he built a replica of the house he was held in briefly after being moved off Robben Island, the desolate offshore prison where he spent most of his 27 years.

Mandela wrote in his autobiography, "Long Walk to

Death & Funeral Announcement

MONKEYA LIKIAK KUN

SEPTEMBER 13, 1949 - JULY 10, 2008

was called to his eternal rest at the age of 59.

He is predeceased by:

FATHER: Phinias Alik

MOTHER: Namiko Monkeya Alik

FATHER-IN-LAW: Benigno Kaipat/Jesus Ilo

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Lorenza Chaco/
Fermina R. Kaipat

GRANDSON: Vicente Igisomar Monkeya

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAW:

Gregoria I. & William Mallens, Benjamin Kosam

AUNT: Sepe Monkeya

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Lorenza Ilo Monkeya

CHILDREN/SPOUSES: Melvin I. & Prince C. Monkeya; Glorina M. & Pauline Jack; Lee

Herbert Monkeya & Tricia Igisomar; Shirley I. Monkeya & James Selepeo; Yonis H. Alik

GRANDCHILDREN: Thealanie Mae (Lanie) C. Monkeya; Kyle Phinias (Bambino) C.

Monkeya; Kaiyolanie (Kaikai) M. Selepeo; Tyler Rog (Tyty) I. Monkeya

BROTHERS/SISTERS & SPOUSES: Wilson/Brelina & Children; Mary/Sebaster &

Children; Flyner/Hope & Children; Halwyn/Linda & Children; Leonora Alik; Thalman/Pamela &

Children; Ken Alik; Nena Alik

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAW: Piding I. Kosam; Pete & Gina Lucas; Fred Kaipat &

Ann Marie Demapan

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, godchildren, many friends, and most especially the members of Saipan-Kosraen Community.

On Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., his remains will be escorted from CHC morgue to his residence in Alegeta Road, Kagman II. Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Responso.

On the next day, Friday, July 18, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., his remains will be escorted from his residence to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Intentions will be offered at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment service.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

LORENZA I. MONKEYA, CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

Miss Venezuela is Miss Universe 2008

By BEN STOCKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NHA TRANG, Vietnam (AP)—Miss Venezuela was crowned Miss Universe 2008 on Monday in a contest marked by the spectacle of Miss USA falling down during the evening gown competition for the second year in a row.

The new Miss Universe, Dayana Mendoza, was once kidnapped in her homeland and says the experience taught her to remain poised under pressure.

Tension got under the skin of Miss USA, Crystle Stewart of Texas, who tripped on the train of her bejeweled evening gown as she made her entrance.

During the 2007 Miss Universe contest in Mexico City, Miss USA Rachel Smith also

tumbled during the evening gown competition and became an unintended star on YouTube, where the video was shown over and over again.

At a news conference after this year's event, a beaming Mendoza said she wasn't yet sure where her upcoming year of whirlwind appearances would take her. But after a quick stop in New York, she wants to see her family again, enjoy some of

her mom's home cooking and give everyone hugs.

"When I go back to Venezuela I will jump on my family and they will jump on me," said Mendoza.

In the meantime, Mendoza said, she is simply looking forward to taking off her high-heeled shoes and massaging her feet.

She declined to discuss her kidnapping, which occurred a year and a half ago, but took advantage of the occasion to call for global peace.

"I want to raise my voice and tell the world that violence is not the answer," she said.

Mendoza, 22, is a 5-foot, 10-inch (178-centimeter), green-eyed beauty who enjoys learning languages and photography. She appeared at the news conference in the flowing yellow dress and dangling turquoise



Dayana Mendoza of Venezuela reacts after winning the Miss Universe 2008 beauty pageant in Nha Trang, Vietnam, Monday, July 14, 2008.

Miss Thailand won the prize for best national costume and Miss El Salvador was chosen by her peers as Miss Congeniality.

The NBC show was hosted by talk show star Jerry Springer and Spice Girl Melanie Brown and broadcast live to hundreds of millions of viewers in 170 countries.

The tuxedoed Springer made a grand entrance on a motorbike - the vehicle of choice in Vietnam, where the streets are teeming with millions of the speeding two-wheelers.

Eighty contestants gathered in the seaside city of Nha Trang, Vietnam, vying to succeed previous Miss Universe Riyo Mori of Japan.

Sporting yellow, green and orange bikinis, the 15 semifinalists strutted across the stage during the swimsuit competition to the sounds of Lady Gaga, who belted out the pulsating "Just Dance" in a platinum blond wig. Miss Vietnam, Lam Thuy Nguyen, was greeted with a roar from the Vietnamese audience.

The final 10 then competed in the evening gown event.

They performed in front of a panel of judges that included international fashion experts and Donald Trump Jr., whose father, the real estate magnate and TV star, co-owns the pageant with NBC.

This year's contestants spanned a wide range of experiences and aspirations.

Miss Albania was a professional basketball player. Miss Argentina says she has paranormal experiences. Miss Antigua & Barbuda is fascinated by snakes. Miss Angola was in a plane crash while trying to escape a conflict during her country's civil war.

earrings that she wore during the evening gown competition in which Stewart took her spill.

Stewart, 26, is a motivational speaker and former track and field star who is working on a book called "Waiting to Win." The Houston native plans to open a character-development school for young children and has worked with students with autism in the Texas schools.

During a weekend interview with the Associated Press, Stewart said she felt very confident

going into the show and couldn't imagine experiencing the same calamity as her predecessor.

"All I can offer to the world and to America is to do my best," Stewart said. "Nerves don't play a part in this."

The final five contestants included four from Latin America: Miss Mexico, Miss Dominican Republic, Miss Colombia and Miss Venezuela. Rounding out the final five was Miss Russia.

Miss Colombia finished second behind Mendoza.

'Hellboy II' catches fire with \$35.9M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Superheroes battling inner demons often rule the box office. This time, the superhero was a demon as "Hellboy II: The Golden Army" pulled in \$35.9 million to debut as the No. 1 weekend film.

Universal's "Hellboy" sequel, starring Ron Perlman as the red-skinned devil fighting for the good guys, took over the top spot from Will Smith's superhero tale "Hancock," which slipped to second place with \$33 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Sony's "Hancock" raised its domestic total to \$165 million.

Opening at No. 3 with \$20.6 million was New Line's "Journey to the Center of the Earth," starring Brendan Fraser in an underground adventure shot in digital 3-D.

"Hellboy II" was a rare case of one studio taking on another's hand-me-downs. Sony released the first "Hellboy" in 2004 but passed on the sequel, which allowed Universal to step in.

The original movie was a modest box-office performer,

hauling in \$23.2 million over opening weekend and \$59 million in its entire run. However, it really caught fire on DVD, convincing Universal executives that a sequel was in order.

"Journey to the Center of the

of the picture's revenues, according to Warner Bros., which handled its distribution.

Warner had to book the movie largely in traditional 2-D theaters because not enough cinemas have been converted to projectors capable of showing digital 3-D movies.

"We would have liked to have more of these," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner.

Overall Hollywood revenues fell compared to the same weekend a year ago, when "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" opened with \$77.4 million. The top 12 movies took in \$145 million, down 16 percent from the same weekend in 2007.

However, Batman arrives Friday to heat up the box office again. The Batman sequel "The Dark Knight" is one of the year's most-anticipated films even without the death of co-star Heath Ledger. His death and the buzz over his maniacal performance as Batman nemesis the Joker has fans in a frenzy to see the movie.

1. "Hellboy II: The Golden Army," \$35.9 million.
2. "Hancock," \$33 million.
3. "Journey to the Center of the Earth," \$20.6 million.
4. "WALL-E," \$18.5 million.
5. "Wanted," \$11.6 million.
6. "Get Smart," \$7.1 million.
7. "Meet Dave," \$5.3 million.
8. "Kung Fu Panda," \$4.3 million.
9. "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl," \$2.5 million.
10. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," \$2.3 million.

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NOW SHOWING



Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 10:00
 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15

Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
 Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated R

Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. — Jason Buchanan, *All Movie Guide*



Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem, Josh Hutcherson
 Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

Synopsis

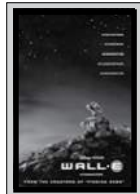
Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



Meet Dave

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20 7:20

Eddie Murphy, Elizabeth Banks
 Sci-Fi Comedy • Rated PG



Wall-E

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05

Wall-E as played by Tracy McGrady
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G



Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
 Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13



Incredible Hulk

Fri & Sat 7:00 9:55
 Sun thru Thurs 7:30

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
 Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



Wanted

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:50
 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25

James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
 Action • Rated R



Kung Fu Panda

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:20
 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:20

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

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Knox and Vivienne make eight for Jolie-Pitt family

NICE, France (AP)—Brad Pitt was emotional but calm, Angelina Jolie laughed and chatted. The world's most famous celebrity couple were joined in emotion during the birth of their twins—a boy and a girl—and all “are doing marvelously well,” the doctor who delivered the babies in a seaside hospital on the French Riviera said Sunday.

The newborns—Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline, born one minute apart Saturday evening—are the ultimate million-dollar babies, with experts estimating their first photos will fetch a fortune.

“In the celebrity world, it seems to be the double second coming,” said Darryn Lyons, owner of Big Pictures, a photo agency in London.

For now, mother, father and newborns are resting out of the public eye on the fifth floor of the Lenval hospital, behind blue mirrored windows that provide sweeping views of Nice's sun-drenched beaches, but specially treated to deflect the prying lenses of paparazzi.

Jolie's obstetrician, Dr. Michel Sussmann, said the 44-year-old Pitt was at Jolie's side during the delivery, looking on as the doctor performed a Caesarean section to deliver Knox, weighing in at slightly over 5 pounds, and Vivienne, who weighed 5 pounds.

“He was my assistant,” Sussmann joked.

“He was very happy. ... The emotion was very strong for him,” Sussmann told reporters on the hospital steps. “I felt the emotion of both the mother and the father. Angelina Jolie was speaking, was laughing with her husband. They were happy.”

“The mother, the babies, the father are doing marvelously well,” he said.

Sussmann said the Caesarean was moved forward from its originally planned date “for medical reasons” so the babies could be born “in the best conditions.” The



AP
American actress Angelina Jolie poses at the photo call for the film “Changeling” at the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on May 20, 2008.

doctor did not elaborate.

He said Jolie, 33, is expected to stay in the hospital for a few more days and that she now needs rest. The four other Jolie-Pitt children—Maddox, 6; Pax, 4; Zahara, 3; and Shiloh, 2—have not yet seen their new sister and brother, he said.

The doctor said he believed the baby girl's middle name was chosen in honor of Jolie's mother, actress Marcheline Bertrand, who died in January 2007 after a 7 1/2-year battle with cancer.

News of the births attracted a small crowd of fans hoping to snap a photo of Pitt—or any of their celebrity friends stop-

ping by to pay a visit. None appeared, but the mayor of Nice delivered the twin's birth certificates, which he later displayed to reporters, with the family's approval, showing Pitt's scrawling WBP, for his full name William Brad Pitt.

“The father is having one of the happiest moments of his life, like any father, especially when they have the joy of having two children from such a wonderful wife as Angelina Jolie,” Mayor Christian Estrosi said after the brief official visit, which spared Pitt the gauntlet of paparazzi that would accompany any trip to City Hall.

“The mother is doing fine. She is smiling a lot. She is as happy as the father,” Estrosi said.

The twins' arrival has spurred a rash of speculation about the price of the first “official” snaps.

Nice Matin, the hometown daily in the Riviera city in the south of France, put the worth of the twins' photos at more than \$11 million. It first broke news of the birth and reported Sunday that the couple have sold the rights for the first photo of their newly expanded family to a U.S. publication, which it did not name, and that the proceeds would go to charity.

“I've never known a set of pictures to be worth this amount of money,” said Lyons, the owner of Big Pictures. He estimated that the twins' official photos will be worth between \$15 million and \$20 million.

The only other photos that “would possibly come that close is Britney Spears giving birth to an alien,” he said.

Veteran London-based celebrity publicist Max Clifford estimated the first photos could fetch 10 million pounds—roughly euro12 million or \$20 million, “which would make it the biggest baby deal ever.”

“These kind of pictures sell lots of magazines,” he said. “It's a 10-million-pound (\$20 million) gamble as to whether the ends justify the means. But obviously it's a very calculated risk because whoever lands the photos will have a lot of experience with the popularity of mum and dad.”

Paparazzi have been following the couple through southern France since the Cannes film festival in May, snapping shots of the family on an outing to Eze beach and sticking close as they set up household in Correns, 60 miles from Nice. But so far the couple has evaded the paparazzi when it counted, arriving undetected at the Lenval clinic two weeks before the birth.

Newspaper tug-of-war could become race to the bathroom

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I love your column. Unfortunately, it appears on the same page as the comics and Sudoku puzzle in our newspaper. Every morning my boyfriend drinks a cup of coffee and then disappears into the bathroom for a good 15 minutes—even longer on weekends—with your section of the paper. Half the time I never get it back, and if I do it's never in fresh, crisp condition.

Any advice on how I can convince the male side of our household to extend a little more courtesy toward those of us who like to read Dear Abby before his morning “duty”? I don't even care if he leaves the seat up.

DESPERATE IN DURANGO, COLO.

DEAR DESPERATE: It's time to do some detective work. If it's Sudoku your boyfriend is after, cut it out and tape it to the toilet seat so it's ready and waiting for him. That way you can have your dose of Dear Abby untouched.

However, if MY column is his guilty secret behind that closed door, your only alternative is to grab the section first, beat him in there and lock the door. In a case like this, victory belongs to the fleetest.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of 12 years, “Kimberly,” has been engaged to “Oliver” for about six months, living with him for four. She recently confided to me that she does not want to be married and regrets ever moving in with him. We both cried as she told me everything that has been going on. She apologized for not telling me sooner how unhappy she was.

The next day, Kimberly claimed she regretted saying anything because it made Oliver sound so horrible. She said she had failed to tell me the good things he does to balance out the bad. I remained noncommittal and told her I am always here to listen. I told her my rule is, “Are the good times worth the bad?” She said they weren't, and she still doesn't want to get married. But she also insists she won't back out or say anything.

What should I do? Now that I know everything, it is impossible for me to see my best friend, who I love, enter a marriage she herself says she doesn't want. Should I keep my mouth shut, or fight on her behalf, since she refuses to speak up?

ADVOCATE FOR HAPPINESS IN SEATTLE

DEAR ADVOCATE: Neither one. Tell you friend that, feeling ambivalent as she does, she and Oliver should seek premarital counseling from the person who will officiate at their wedding. If this marriage is not to be, it will become evident to all three of them at that time.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I dread getting my hair cut and colored at salons because I detest small talk. I can't get to the salon until after work, and by then I'm all small-talked-out. Is it rude to bring a book and read while someone is doing your hair?

NOT A CHATTY CATHY, IRVINE, CALIF.

DEAR NOT CHATTY: It is not rude to bring along something to read while your hair is being colored. However, reading while you are getting your hair cut might be counterproductive.

In order to get the “line” right, your hairdresser would probably prefer that you sit with your head up, looking straight into the mirror rather than down. My hairdresser, Asya, is a perfectionist who insists upon it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby's Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

The Who honored in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Who was celebrated at a special concert by a few bands outside of their generation.

The legendary band was honored at the Saturday taping of the third annual “VH1 Rock Honors,” which will air Thursday on the cable channel. Celebrity guests such as David Duchovny, Mila Kunis, Rainn Wilson and Adam Sandler introduced The Flaming Lips, Foo Fighters, Incubus, Tenacious D and Pearl Jam, who covered songs from such Who albums as “Tommy,” “The Who Sell Out” and “Quadrophenia.”

Who guitarist Pete Townshend and lead singer Roger Daltrey closed the special concert at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion with a performance of some of the band's greatest hits. Orig-

inal drummer Keith Moon died in London in 1978. Original bassist John Entwistle died in Las Vegas in 2002. Moon and Entwistle were remembered in pre-taped retrospectives during the over two-hour show.

“I have had a life of absolute privilege and wonder,” Daltrey told AP Television News on the red carpet before the concert. “How could it ever be bittersweet? I miss old friends, but they are with me. When we start playing our music, John (Entwistle) and Keith (Moon) echo with us all the time, so it's kind of like they never left.”

“The Office” funnyman Wilson, dressed as Elton John's character Local Lad from “Tommy,” introduced The Flaming Lips, who performed a med-

ley of songs from The Who's legendary 1969 rock opera. Flaming Lips frontman Wayne Coyne began the “Tommy” set inside of a giant plastic bubble that traveled over the first few rows of the audience.

“It's an honor to honor what I consider to be the greatest band of all time,” actor and Tenacious D lead singer Jack Black told the crowd before acoustically performing “Squeeze Box” with musical partner Kyle Gass. “Wanna know why they were the greatest? Because they were the first ones to really rock hard.”

Sean Penn introduced Pearl Jam, who were joined for “Love Reign O'er Me” with an orchestra and “The Real Me” with horn players. Pearl Jam lead singer Eddie Vedder and lead

guitarist Mike McCready respectively paid homage to The Who's penchant for destroying instruments by throwing a microphone into the audience and a guitar up in the air.

“We know that we're all here tonight because The Who never did sell out, unlike certain music channels,” Penn told the crowd.

The Who wowed the packed audience with such tunes as “Teenage Wasteland,” “The Seeker,” “My Generation,” “Two Thousand Years,” “Batman” and “Who Are You.” Townshend stopped the band in the middle of performing “Won't Get Fooled Again” because of an issue with his speaker and later started the song over from the beginning. Daltrey and Townshend closed the show with “Tea and Theatre.”

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

I WONDER IF MY LIFE WILL FLASH BEFORE MY EYES.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH BEING SIX YEARS OLD...

...MY LIFE WON'T TAKE VERY LONG TO WATCH.

MAYBE I CAN GET A FEW SLOW-MOTION REPLAYS OF THE TIME I SMACKED SUSIE UPSIDE THE HEAD WITH A SLUSHBALL.

7/15

Garfield®

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE MOVING TODAY?

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO GET SOME EXERCISE?

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO GO OUTSIDE?!

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU SEE ANY WHEELS ON THIS BED?

7-15

Adam@home

WAIT A SECOND!... SOMEONE'S EITHER GLUED OR TAPED LITTLE PIECES OF PAPER OVER THE ALREADY PUNCHED HOLES IN THIS PREPAID DRINK CARD.

7/15

The Duplex

HONK HONK

COME ON! MOVE THAT HEAP!

LET'S GO, BUS! WE'RE IN A HURRY!

WE MADE IT.

FINALLY!

7-15

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Runs for exercise

5 Recede

8 Moolah

12 Satan's specialty

13 Meadow

14 — take arms against ...

15 National pastime

17 Tolerate

18 A billion years

19 Through eternity

21 Pupa-to-be

24 Elbow counter-part

25 Lotion additive

26 MySpace alternative

30 Picks out of a lineup

31 Aviator

32 Remuneration

33 Court-room agenda

DOWN

1 Dubya's brother

2 Eggs

3 USO

4 Hiding place

5 Verve

6 Canto

7 Equitable

8 Network

9 Neck of the woods

10 Remain

11 —

16 Feathery

20 Lascivious look

21 Secular

22 Hawkeye

23 Colonial sewer

24 Eskimo boat

26 Developed

27 October stone

28 Galley supply

29 "South Park" kid

31 Banner

34 Exit

35 Wild and crazy

37 "A pox upon thee!"

38 Face feature

39 Vagrant

40 Eager, plus

41 Needing liniment

44 — glance

45 Blackjack part

46 Genetic letters

47 Solidify

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	R	S	A	B	O	T	F	O	P
E	M	U	S	U	R	Y	A	R	E	
G	Y	M	N	A	S	T	I	C	N	E
I	V	Y	N	O	R	T	O	N		
C	A	S	P	E	R	G	O	Y	A	
U	S	A	R	I	D	N	E	S	T	S
F	I	R	S	A	U	F	S	T	O	P
F	A	C	E	T	O	R	C	I	R	A
A	G	U	E	E	L	I	C	I	T	
A	B	S	O	R	B	E	E	N		
P	U	T	B	O	M	B	A	S	T	I
S	R	I	O	N	A	I	R	E	R	A
E	T	C	T	Y	P	E	S	E	E	L

Yesterday's answer 7-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
			18				19	20		
21	22	23				24				
25				26				27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
			36					37		
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emily Roeske, 17; Brian Austin Green, 35; Forest Whitaker, 47; Linda Ronstadt, 62

Happy Birthday: You've got what it takes to do what you want, so don't settle for second best. Give yourself deserved credit and build your confidence. Once you get started, you'll be surprised how far you can get. This year, don't be afraid to take a different path or to give something new a whirl. Your numbers are 3, 7, 18, 23, 31, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work hard and you will get a break. Romance should be high on your list, along with developing something creative. Don't pay too much attention to someone negative who is always trying to bring you down. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Time spent fixing up your place will bring your family closer together. An outsider may ask for help but make sure you have done all you can for the ones you love first. Talks will lead to solutions. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions are skyrocketing and love should be in the works. It's a great day to get out and have fun with friends or develop new relationships. This is a fabulous time to primp and pamper and update your wardrobe or hairstyle. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you know through work or a group you belong to may waffle when it comes to a decision that will affect you. Try not to let it bother you. The calmer you remain, the more impressed everyone will be with you. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can turn a little into a lot. You have plenty going your way and, best of all, an opportunity to turn something you love to do into a profitable investment. Don't expect a challenge or game of chance to pay off financially. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take a chance with your personal life. If someone has been taking up too much of your time, causing havoc at home or with someone you love, put an end to it and focus on your future and your personal intentions. Changes made at home will turn out better than anticipated. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't say anything you might regret, especially if it's to a co-worker or someone you have to deal with daily. A new project, hobby or even a new friend can get your mind moving in directions that will be far more productive. Avoid negativity. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look at your investments, goals and accomplishments. If you aren't happy, make some rather drastic changes. Look at what others are doing, attend seminars or travel to see what's available. Time is wasting away while you ponder. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you keep changing your mind, you will be end up with leftovers. A legal matter can be resolved if you are reasonable. Problems will occur while traveling or dealing with authority figures. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a chance if you believe in what you are doing. Taking care of someone else's responsibilities will ensure you get something in return. Your ability to sum things up and close a deal will lead to greater prosperity. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Help a cause you believe in. You will meet someone who interests you for the knowledge he or she can bring to the table. There is a good lesson to be learned from the way others treat you and you them. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Not everyone is looking out for your best interests. Don't let your emotions take you down the wrong path. Taking an all-or-nothing approach is likely to backfire leaving you with nothing but blame and criticism. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are charming, determined, aggressive and proactive. You are a good person to befriend. You have plenty of pizzazz and intuition.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	1	4	5			8		
	2			8	7		9	1
9					3			5
	9	1						2
	6						1	
8						4	6	
7			2					4
2	4		1	6			5	
		3			5	6	2	

Difficulty Level ★★

7/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	7	4	5	3	2	8	6
2	5	6	8	1	9	3	4	7
3	8	4	7	6	2	9	1	5
7	1	5	2	4	8	6	3	9
9	2	8	1	3	6	5	7	4
6	4	3	5	9	7	1	2	8
5	3	1	9	7	4	8	6	2
4	6	2	3	8	5	7	9	1
8	7	9	6	2	1	4	5	3

Difficulty Level ★

7/14

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY**. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

APPLYING FOR YOUR PASSPORT Solution: 5 letters

R	N	R	I	C	B	E	T	T	N	E	S	N	O	C
P	E	E	M	H	I	D	B	O	O	T	H	H	I	
R	R	Q	M	C	M	A	R	I	U	L	I	A	M	T
E	D	U	U	B	O	I	R	T	U	R	N	H	D	I
P	L	E	U	I	A	R	G	G	H	G	E	S	O	Z
A	I	S	G	L	R	S	D	R	E	D	U	A	C	E
R	H	T	U	E	D	E	S	S	A	S	A	C	U	N
E	C	N	A	V	D	A	M	Y	N	N	O	Y	M	S
S	T	V	R	A	A	O	O	E	E	U	T	©	E	H
S	D	S	D	R	B	L	C	R	N	C	①	S	N	I
E	E	R	I	T	A	K	I	T	B	⑦	I	I	T	P
R	M	F	A	R	D	S	R	D	⑤	A	S	F	S	R
D	A	I	N	C	U	Y	D	E	U	S	S	I	F	O
D	N	L	S	A	L	O	S	T	L	E	G	A	L	O
A	S	E	T	A	T	S	T	S	O	C	S	E	E	F

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Abroad, Address, Adult, Advance, Birthday, Booth, Bureau, Cards, Cash, Census, Changes, Charges, Children, Citizenship, City, Clerk, Consent, Costs, Country, Documents, Embassy, Fees, File, Guardians, Guide, Immigrants, Issued, Legal, Lost, Mail, Name, Obtain, Office, Prepare, Proof, Records, Request, Requirements, State, Submit, Tourist, Travel, Valid

Yesterday's Answer: Briefings

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Surging Perry wins in playoff



Kenny Perry holds the John Deere Classic Trophy after beating Brad Adamonis and Jay Williamson in a playoff to win the golf tournament at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill., Sunday, July 13, 2008.

SILVIS, ILL. (AP)—Kenny Perry beat Brad Adamonis and Jay Williamson in a playoff to win the John Deere Classic and escape with his third victory in five starts after bogeying the 18th hole

on Sunday.

Perry had a one-stroke lead at 17-under through 17 only to lose it thanks to some poor shots from the fringe on the final hole of regulation. He and Williamson then watched as Adamonis, the PGA Tour's oldest rookie at 35,

missed an 18-foot putt for birdie that would have won it in regulation and given him his first victory.

The ball stopped three feet short and Adamonis was at 16-under 268 with the others.

While Adamonis and Williamson

both hit approach shots into the pond on No. 18, Perry tapped in from 1 foot, 4 inches for par and the victory after his 24-footer stopped just short.

He picked the ball out of the cup and raised both arms, an ear-to-ear grin crossing his face.

He has reason to smile.

He's enjoying the best stretch of his career and collected \$756,000 with his 12th victory. Perry (1-under 70), Adamonis (70) and Williamson (69) were one stroke ahead of Charlie Wi (69), Will MacKenzie (70) and Eric Axley (69) after 72 holes.

Williamson earned an invitation to the British Open and, unlike Perry, accepted it.

Now second behind Tiger Woods in the FedEx Cup standings, Perry might have been a threat there had he not decided to honor a commitment to play in the U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee instead. He's focusing on the Ryder Cup and on playing courses he thinks suit his game.

Like TPC Deere Run.

Perry pulled ahead at 17-under with a birdie on the par-4 14th, and stayed ahead with a putt to save par on the par-3 16th after a terrible chip from the fringe. After his tee shot settled about 19 feet from the hole, Perry overshot the cup by 16 feet.

No problem.

Instead of a bogey, he knocked in the putt to maintain a one-shot lead over MacKenzie, but he wasn't as fortunate when a similar scenario unfolded on 18.

His approach settled on the fringe along the right side, 34 feet from the cup, and his chip shot went across the green to the fringe on the left side. Another chip shot for par went about 6 feet, and Perry hit a 6-foot putt for the

bogey that opened the door for Adamonis and Williamson.

On a balmy, breezy day, Perry was erratic at times off the tee but his good fortune continued.

Perry lost a playoff at the AT&T Classic in May and won the Memorial two weeks later. He tied for sixth at the Travelers Championship and closed out June with another win at the Buick Open, giving him four top-six finishes in six starts.

Other players have been touching him and asking what he's been eating lately, hoping to capture some of his magic. The galleries have been a little larger lately, too, and the PGA Tour even assigned him a security guard at the course.

It's all new for Perry, who has played more than two decades on the Tour.

Why now? Perry isn't sure.

His mechanics were off following knee surgery two years ago, and a new putter has helped his short game, but he has never played this well for this long. If ever there was a time for him to win a major, this would seem to be it given his form and Tiger Woods' knee injury.

Of course, he's skipping the British Open, and he's doing that after passing on the 36-hole U.S. Open qualifying the day after his win at the Memorial.

Not that he wouldn't love to win a major, but his major goal at the moment is helping the U.S. team win the Ryder Cup at Valhalla in Louisville, about 40 miles from his birthplace.

Zach Johnson (71) finished at 1-under 283 for the tournament, another disappointing showing at what he considers his home event.

"I'm going to keep fighting," said Johnson, who's grew up just over an hour away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

He'll take that fight to Royal Birkdale, where he hopes to boost his chances for the U.S. Ryder Cup team with a strong showing at the British Open.

"I play I hard, I play good, things will take care of themselves," he said.

Rally held to pressure Packers to reinstate Favre

By CARRIE ANTLINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



Brett Favre's fans came to his defense Sunday, rallying outside Lambeau Field to pressure the Green Bay Packers to reinstate him as the starting quarterback. The crowd of more than 100 chanted "We want Brett," and carried signs reading, "Favre for President" or "Favre Forever." Many in the parking lot wore No. 4 jerseys, tossed footballs and grilled.

"We've always appreciated the passion of our fans," the Packers said in a statement. Team spokesman Jeff Blum said there would be no other comment.

The rally in Green Bay, Wis., was the brainchild of brothers Adam and Erick Rolfson, who on Friday tried to think of a way to keep Favre in Green Bay. Another rally is planned for Monday night in suburban Milwaukee and every Sunday thereafter at Lambeau Field until Favre is back.

The brothers also are demanding an emergency meeting of stockholders "to help control the fate of our quarterback," Erick Rolfson said.

A message left for Favre's agent, James "Bus" Cook, wasn't immediately returned Sunday.

Favre retired March 6 after 16 seasons with the team. He changed his mind and asked for his release because it appeared the Packers were not receptive to having him play again.

On Saturday, general manager Ted

Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy said they didn't plan to grant Favre's request. And while Thompson said Favre could rejoin the team in a "different role," the Packers were committed to going with Aaron Rodgers as their starter.

"We wanted to create a forum for fans' voices to be heard," Adam Rolfson, 36, told The Associated Press by phone. "I don't understand how you deny somebody that threw for 4,000 yards (last season) a starting position. I can think of at least 25 teams in the NFL that would jump at the opportunity to have Brett Favre be their starting quarterback."

They had hoped Sunday's rally, only a day in the making, would have attracted more people.

Packers fans are divided on the 38-year-old quarterback. While Favre clearly has his supporters, others seem weary of another offseason of retirement-related drama.

In an unscientific poll on the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Web site, 47.2 percent of fans said they wanted Favre to play for the Packers next season and 46.5 percent said he should "retire already." Only 6.3 percent of the 17,000-plus fans who voted in the poll as of Sunday afternoon wanted to see Favre play for another team.

The Packers said if Favre wanted to play for them, he had the chance when he told them a few weeks after his tearful goodbye news conference that he was having second thoughts. With

Thompson and McCarthy preparing to fly to Mississippi and seal the deal on a comeback, all Favre had to do was say yes. He didn't.

"Ted always wanted Brett back," McCarthy said. "We always wanted Brett back."

In an interview with the AP on Saturday, Thompson called the situation "gut-wrenching."

"We understand where the fans are coming from," he said. "This is a hot-button issue that surpasses anything I've ever gone through."

The brothers, from the Milwaukee suburb of Pewaukee, started making random phone calls Saturday from the Green Bay white pages urging people to attend Sunday's rally and visit their Web site <http://www.bringback-brettfavre.com>.

At the rally, they asked fans to vote on whether they wanted the team to make Favre the starter, whether Favre or Rodgers gives the Packers the best chance at the Super Bowl and whether Thompson should be fired if he trades or releases Favre.

The Web site is selling "Favre 08" shirts, bumper stickers and yard signs. Erick Rolfson, 32, plans to turn his Wauwatosa mortgage company into "Favre '08 Headquarters."

"Last time we checked," he said, "Green Bay is a publicly owned franchise and is owned by the people in the community and by the stockholders, not Ted Thompson."

Wade returns to court in Zo's Summer Jam



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade took a pass off the backboard from Chris Paul, leaped with arms outstretched and effortlessly threw down a fierce two-handed dunk.

Less than 30 seconds after tip-off, Wade reminded Miami fans what they missed last season.

OK, so it was only an exhibition game, with almost no defense whatsoever, LeBron James throwing lobs to himself and five-point shot attempts. Didn't matter. Wade was on his home court Sunday night for the first time since injuries ended his 2007-08 season five weeks prematurely, and gave the crowd what it longed to see—the 2006 NBA finals MVP back in star form.

"It's good to get back to playing basketball," Wade said. "I'm happy just to get back out there again, have some fun and most importantly support the cause."

The cause was Alonzo Mourning Charities, the primary beneficiary of Zo's Summer Groove, which is now in its 12th year and traditionally closes with an All-Star caliber matchup. This year's version might have been the most star-studded yet, with James, Paul and Kenyon Martin all in uniform. Terrell Owens was there, lobbing toy basketballs into the crowd. The Heat past (Tim Hardaway, Damon Jones) and future (Michael Beasley, Mario Chalmers) were on display.

But the biggest ovation may have been for Wade.

"We're having some fun," Wade said. "It's not a regular-season game, but we want to entertain the fans and have some fun."

Soon, he'll leave to join the U.S. Olympic team as it tunes up for the Beijing Games. First, though, came his role as the co-headliner of the weeklong series of ZSG events, which have now raised around \$7 million for children's causes in South Florida. And the highlight was this game, where he strutted and shot to the delight of fans and under the watchful eye of Heat president Pat Riley, who sat courtside.

"It was a great idea for Dwyane and I to bring our resources together," said Mourning, who was told by doctors not to play because of continuing rehabilitation of a knee injury he suffered in December, yet appeared for the last few minutes anyway and hit a five-point shot as time expired. Wade's team prevailed over Mourning's squad, 174-164.

Of course, there was plenty of what-might-be talk in the locker room before the game. Whenever James and Wade get together between now and 2010—the summer in which both can opt out of their current contracts—chatter about the two superstars pairing up on the same NBA team will be inevitable.

"A lot can happen in the next two years," Wade said.

"I could see myself playing with him," offered James.

Indians complete four-game sweep of Rays



CLEVELAND (AP) —

The Tampa Bay Rays lost their seventh straight game, sending Major League Baseball's feel-good story into the All-Star break on a sour note on Sunday.

Jhonny Peralta drove in three runs and the Cleveland Indians beat Scott Kazmir and Tampa Bay 5-2 to complete a four-game sweep. The Rays lost the lead in the American League East to Boston, after leading the division by five games on Monday.

Peralta's two-run homer in the fifth inning off Kazmir (7-5) gave Cleveland a 4-2 lead.

The Indians entered the series having lost 10 straight, their worst streak since 1979, but outscored the Rays 31-8 to extend their home winning streak over Tampa Bay to 13 since September 2005.

Red Sox 2, Orioles 1

At Boston, Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched six scoreless innings and Boston reclaimed the AL East lead going into the All-Star break, defeating Baltimore.

The Red Sox took the division lead for the first time since June 28. Boston trailed by a season-high five games last weekend, then won five of six while the Rays lost seven in a row.

Matsuzaka (10-1) struggled with his control, but worked around four hits and five walks. Jonathan Papelbon escaped in the ninth for his 28th save of the season and 100th of his career.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 1

At Toronto, A.J. Burnett came within two outs of a shutout, Marco Scutaro hit a three-run home run and Toronto beat Andy Pettitte and New York for its fifth win in six games.

Pitching on three days rest for the third time in his career, Burnett (10-8) allowed one run and six hits, walked one and struck out eight. He is 3-0 with a 3.00 ERA when pitching on three days' rest.

Jason Giambi spoiled Burnett's shutout bid with a solo home run in the ninth, his 19th.

Tigers 4, Twins 2

At Detroit, Justin Verlander tossed seven sharp innings and Detroit avoided a four-game sweep by beating Minnesota.

Verlander (7-9) allowed two runs and four hits, improving to 5-0 in his last seven starts. He hasn't allowed more than two earned runs during his unbeaten streak, lowering his ERA from 5.05 to 4.15.

Clete Thomas hit his first major league homer for the Tigers.

Miguel Cabrera put Detroit ahead 3-2 with a run-scoring groundout in the fifth and Matt Joyce hit his ninth homer in the eighth.

Mariners 4, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Adrian Beltre scored the go-ahead run on an error in the ninth, enabling Seattle to close out a disappointing first half of the season with a victory over Kansas City.

Beltre doubled, went to third on a sacrifice bunt, but then got caught in a rundown when Willie Bloomquist grounded back to Soria.

um for the All-Star game, added a two-run single to push his hitting streak to 15 games.

Carlos Quentin and Jermaine Dye homered for Chicago, which had a season-high 22 hits. Boone Logan (2-2) got the loss.

Chicago scored three times in the ninth against closer C.J. Wilson before Jim Thome and Paul Konerko both took called third strikes to end the game.

tional League East lead heading into the All-Star break.

Arizona still leads the NL West, albeit with a 47-48 record.

After starters Brandon Webb and Cole Hamels left after the seventh with the score tied at 2, the Phillies broke away.

Chase Utley and Ryan Howard singled and Burrell followed with his 23rd home run, connecting against Chad Qualls (2-7). Pedro Feliz hit a solo

The game was tied at 2 in the ninth when pinch-hitter Craig Counsell hit a game-winning sacrifice fly for the Brewers.

Giants 4, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Tim Lincecum tossed eight strong innings to hand fellow All-Star Ryan Dempster his first loss at Wrigley Field, leading San Francisco over Chicago.

Dempster (10-4), one of eight Cubs selected for Tuesday's

game at Yankee Stadium, entered with a 10-0 record in 11 home starts this season, but was upstaged by another brilliant start by Lincecum (11-2). The Giants right-hander struck out nine, allowed one run and six hits and also drove in a run with his first career triple.

Ray Durham hit a two-run single in the third and Fred Lewis tripled in a run in the seventh for San Francisco, which ended a six-game losing streak.

Cardinals 11, Pirates 6

At Pittsburgh, Aaron Miles drove in five runs with a home run and a triple and St. Louis held off a Pittsburgh comeback this time.

After Pittsburgh rallied for the second day in a row and took a 6-5

lead on Chris Gomez's two-run double in the sixth, Miles finished St. Louis' four-run, go-ahead seventh with a two-run triple.

Ryan Ludwick added his 21st homer, a solo shot in the eighth that was his third in as many games. Troy Glaus completed a 10-for-13 weekend with a home run.

Astros 5, Nationals 0

At Washington, Brandon Backe pitched seven-plus innings and helped himself with a pair of hits to lead Houston over Washington in a battle of last-place teams.

Backe (6-9) raised his batting average to .345 while lowering his ERA to 4.76. He scored after leading off the third inning with a double, then singled and scored in the seventh.

Ty Wigginton hit his eighth

home run of the season and Carlos Lee had three RBIs for the Astros, who took two of three from the Nationals and finished 4-5 on their road trip leading into the break.

The Nationals, who have MLB's worst record and worst offense, were shut out for the 12th time, most in the majors.

Braves 12, Padres 3

At San Diego, All-Star catcher Brian McCann homered and drove in three runs to help Atlanta rout San Diego and win the three-game series.

McCann extended his on-base streak to eight straight. That includes three walks on Saturday and a walk and hit by pitch along with his 3-for-3 on Sunday.

Braves rookie Jorge Campillo tossed six strong innings to even his record at 4-4. He had to leave the game in the top of the seventh when he fouled a pitch off his left foot.

Dodgers 9, Marlins 1

At Los Angeles, Chad Billingsley struck out a career-high 13 without walking a batter and Los Angeles used a six-run first inning to beat Florida, avoiding a four-game sweep.

Billingsley (9-8) allowed a run and five hits over seven innings.

Andrew Miller (5-9) lost his fourth straight decision, allowing seven runs, five hits and a season-high five walks in just 1 2-3 innings.

Mets 7, Rockies 0

At New York, Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer, Mike Pelfrey dominated off the mound and New York held down Colorado to take a nine-game winning streak into the All-Star break.

Carlos Delgado added a two-run homer for the Mets, whose nine-game run is their best since April 2000.

Pelfrey (8-6) won his sixth straight start, mixing a four-seam fastball with a sharp sinker that kept Colorado off the scoreboard for the second straight game. He allowed just six hits over eight innings with five strikeouts.

The defending NL champion Rockies have lost four straight, during which they have just two runs and 15 hits.



Cleveland Indians' Grady Sizemore (24) and Jhonny Peralta celebrate Peralta's two-run home run in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Sunday, July 13, 2008, in Cleveland. AP

Angels 4, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, Erick Aybar's infield single drove in the winning run with two outs in the ninth, leading Los Angeles to the victory over Oakland.

Casey Kotchman hit a home run and Howie Kendrick drove in two runs to help the Angels record their 19th comeback win and improve to a major league-best 36-19 in games decided by two runs or less.

All-Star Justin Duchschere allowed two runs and five hits over 7 2-3 innings for Oakland.

Phillies 6, Diamondbacks 3

At Philadelphia, Pat Burrell hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Arizona Diamondbacks to hold their Na-

homer one out later.

Chad Tracy homered and Chris Burke had three hits for the Diamondbacks.

Brewers 3, Reds 2

At Milwaukee, CC Sabathia homered in his first NL complete game to help Milwaukee avoid being swept by Cincinnati.

Sabathia hit a home run off Reds starter Homer Bailey in the third, his third career home run and second this season. He became the first pitcher to hit home runs in both leagues in one season since Earl Wilson did it in 1970 for Detroit and San Diego, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Sabathia (2-0) struck out nine batters, all from the fourth inning on. He struck out the side in the ninth.

Italy's Ricco proves he's a mountain man; wins Tour de France stage



BAGNERES-DE-BIGORRE, France

(AP)—When Riccardo Ricco gets into the mountains in the Tour de France, he rides a natural high.

Ricco, a 24-year-old Italian, underlined his climbing prowess on Sunday with his second stage victory in three mountain stages.

The rider nicknamed "The Cobra" struck when his rivals

appeared most vulnerable, bolting out of the pack in the steepest part of the final ascent on the 224-kilometer (139.2-mile) ride from Toulouse to Bagneres-de-Bigorre.

"Let's say that this is really my turf, my domain," Ricco said. "I went all out to the finish ... I was really fast today."

Despite beginning the ninth stage with a sore right knee from a crash on Saturday, Ricco breezed past a few breakaway riders and

finished 64 seconds ahead of his closest challenger—Vladimir Efimkov of Russia—and 77 ahead of race leader Kim Kirchen, Cadel Evans and most of the other would-be title contenders.

The Italian whittled his deficit to Kirchen to 2:35 from 3:52, and rose to 21st overall from 27th.

Ricco was regarded only as an outside shot for overall victory before the three-week race. He said he wasn't even originally scheduled to race in the

Tour—and had to convince his Saunier Duval team manager to let him take part.

Now, along with his victory in Stage 6 last Thursday in the Massif Central range, competitors are taking note.

"If Ricco rides the way he did today, he is dangerous," said Bjarne Riis, owner of Team CSC.

Spanish contender Alejandro Valverde said Ricco "is someone we should all be

keeping an eye on."

But that spotlight has included suspicion about what he says is his naturally high hematocrit level—the volume of red blood cells. High hematocrit levels can suggest use of the banned blood booster EPO, but do not confirm it.

Ricco said he has had high levels "ever since I was little," adding "I hope soon that everybody will stop speaking about that."

Magnolia, Ginebra draw first blood

MANILA, Philippines—Lordy Tugade scored 20 points that went with a career-high 15 rebounds Sunday night to lead Magnolia to a 108-96 victory over Coca-Cola and draw first blood in the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup quarterfinal match up between pre-tournament favorites at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Amil McCaskill also had 20 markers and three more locals

finished with 13 points or more as the Beverage Masters seized control early and never let up to move within another win of sealing a semifinal date with Air21.

“In a short series, this (win) is good,” Magnolia coach Siot Tanquingcen said. “But it still doesn’t mean anything. We still have to win another game.”

In the second game, Mark Caguioa had 30 points and

grabbed seven rebounds as Baranagay Ginebra rallied from a double-digit first-half deficit and then held off Sta. Lucia Realty in the stretch, 92-90, to also grab a 1-0 lead in their quarterfinal series.

The two quarterfinal pairings go at it again in game 2 Wednesday.

Magnolia scored the victory even with Danny Seigle riding

the bench because of a mild quadriceps strain as the defense of the Beverage Masters held the usually prolific Jason Dixon to his worst offensive output.

Dixon, who came into the game averaging 22.6 points and 11.7 rebounds, was held to just six and seven and new import Brandon Dean was unimpressive in his debut after scoring just eight points.



X-TERMINATORS

From Page 28

It’s not as if Pelisamen was being selfish with ball, as Ol’Aces’ interior game was hampered most of the quarter with the double-team on 6’3” Abong Camacho, who also did not help his cause by picking up his fourth foul.

It was still anybody’s ballgame in the payoff period until Camacho was whistled for his fifth and final foul to the delight of the Advance X-Terminators bench.

With the menacing center ousted, Advance X-Terminators made hay while the sun shined and quickly built up the lead to twin digits.

But before organizers could book the Oleai Sports Complex for a third and deciding game, Ol’Aces came rushing back on the very capable hands of Pelisamen, who hit four consecutive triples to help trim the lead to four points, with a little over two minutes left in the contest.

Advance X-Terminators only were able to breath a big sigh of relief when consecutive turnovers by the Oleai team led to four quick baskets by Lim and Mendoza that spurred the team to the nine-point win.

Lim—who was held to 14 points in their Game 1 loss—led the victors with 39 points, while Mendoza and playmaker Andres “Jhun” Estolas Jr. backed the youngster with 23 and 20



MARK RABAGO

Ol’Aces center Abong Camacho attempts free throws in the third quarter of Game 2 of their best-of-three finals against the Advance X-Terminators in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

markers, respectively.

Pelisamen hit the half-century mark for the second straight game in the best-of-three finals, erupting for 52 points. Jericho Cruz and Peter Iguel chipped in 20 and

13 with Camacho tossing in 12 before hitting the showers.

Game 3 is set on Thursday, July 17, 8pm following Game 2 of the 40-and-over championship scheduled to start at 6:30pm.

EMBARRASSING

From Page 28

back with his marksmanship from rainbow country. In the end, however, turnovers killed Ol’Aces in the final minutes that led to Advance X-Terminators’ 123-114 win.

“Teamwork was the key in our Game 2 win. My boys just didn’t lose hope despite being blown out in Game 1. Our embarrassing loss in Game 1 actually became our motivation heading into Game 2,” Deocares

said in Filipino during an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* immediately after the game.

The diminutive mentor said their Game 1 loss could actually blamed on a number of factors, foremost of which was the absence of big men Edsel Mendoza and Gyles Ruloked.

“We were the pennant champions but we still got blown out in the first game. We were not complete in that game as Gyles and Edsel did not play in Game 1,” he said.

Asked what strategy he would employ in the do-or-die

Game 3, knowing that Camacho will not see action in that game after the 6’3” behemoth headed off to Guam yesterday to prepare for his deployment in Iraq, Deocares said he will approach Game 3 as if Ol’Aces will be playing with a full deck.

“We know Abong will not play in Game 3, but even if the entire Ol’Aces starting five will not play, my team will still come in and show the same intensity we showed in winning Game 2.”

Ol’Aces coach Sonny Flores,

KENSUKE

From Page 28

nately, will not be joining them.

“Kensuke could not go there because he couldn’t reach the qualifying time. But he will be practicing harder than before to

qualify for the Junior Olympics next spring,” he said.

Coach Kimura said in fact no one from Tsunami Saipan will be going to the Junior Olympics because of the high-level of competition there. He said in order for a swimmer to be allowed to join, he or she should first meet the quali-

fying times set for the events.

“The qualifying time is much faster than the CNMI record. The Junior Olympics is a very high-level meet and even if Kensuke breaks the national record, he may still not qualify,” he said. “We expect Kensuke, however, to go to the Junior Olympic next

spring or the final stage of Tokyo Junior Sprint also next spring.”

Coach Kimura also reminded that Tsunami Saipan’s 2008-2009 season will start on Aug. 4. Full details of the fledgling club’s programs for the new season will be published in the following days.

And the two-import privilege which many saw could be the Tigers’ key to landing a title could very well be their undoing.

“We somehow played good defense and caught him on a bad night at the same time,” said Tanquingcen of Dixon’s lethargic effort.

First Game:
Magnolia 108 – McCaskill 20, Tugade 20, Cortez 18, Hontiveros 13, Ildefonso 13, Pingris 8, Bono 7, Pena 6, Racela 3, Vil-

lanueva 0, Gonzales 0.

Coca-Cola 96 – Taulava 20, Belasco 17, Buenafe 15, Cabagnot 12, Macapagal 9, Catli 9, Dean 8, Dixon 6, Dimaunahan 0, Misolas 0.

Quarters: 30-18, 51-41, 76-72, 108-96

Second Game:
Ginebra 92 – Caguioa 30, Alexander 19, Artadi 11, Helterbrand 11, Mamaril 8, Valenzuela 8, Salvacion 5, Pacana 0, Wilson 0, Menk 0.

Sta. Lucia 90 – Williams 24, Benson 23, Omolon 17, Reyes 9, Yeo 9, Aquino 4, Miranda 2, Espino 2, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 14-24, 37-42, 62-66, 92-90. (*PDI*)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES			
MLB STANDINGS			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Boston	57	40	.588 —
Tampa Bay	55	39	.585 1/2
New York	50	45	.526 6
Toronto	47	48	.495 9
Baltimore	45	48	.484 10
Central Division			
Chicago	54	40	.574 —
Minnesota	53	42	.558 1 1/2
Detroit	47	47	.500 7
Kansas City	43	53	.448 12
Cleveland	41	53	.436 13
West Division			
Los Angeles	57	38	.600 —
Oakland	51	44	.537 6
Texas	50	46	.521 7 1/2
Seattle	37	58	.389 20
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
Philadelphia	52	44	.542 —
New York	51	44	.537 1/2
Florida	50	45	.526 1 1/2
Atlanta	45	50	.474 6 1/2
Washington	36	60	.375 16
Central Division			
Chicago	57	38	.600 —
St. Louis	53	43	.552 4 1/2
Milwaukee	52	43	.547 5
Cincinnati	46	50	.479 11 1/2
Pittsburgh	44	50	.468 12 1/2
Houston	44	51	.463 13
West Division			
Arizona	47	48	.495 —
Los Angeles	46	49	.484 1
San Francisco	40	55	.421 7
Colorado	39	57	.406 8 1/2
San Diego	37	58	.389 10
Yesterday's Games			
Detroit 4, Minnesota 2			
Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 2			
Toronto 4, N.Y. Yankees 1			
Boston 2, Baltimore 1			
Seattle 4, Kansas City 3			
Texas 12, Chicago White Sox 11			
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 3			
Houston 5, Washington 0			
St. Louis 11, Pittsburgh 6			
Philadelphia 6, Arizona 3			
Milwaukee 3, Cincinnati 2			
San Francisco 4, Chicago Cubs 2			
Atlanta 12, San Diego 3			
L.A. Dodgers 9, Florida 1			
N.Y. Mets 7, Colorado 0			
JOHN DEERE CLASSIC SCORES			
SILVIS, Illinois (AP)—Scores Sunday from the John Deere Classic, a \$4.2 million (euro 2.65 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,268-yard, par-71 TPC Deere Run course (a-amateur):			
FINAL ROUND			
x-Kenny Perry	65-66-67-70	268	
Brad Adamonis	66-66-66-70	268	
Jay Williamson	69-68-62-69	268	
x-won on the first hole of playoff			
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS			

RJ carries CNMI flag in opening

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



CNMI golfer R.J. Macaranas literally carried the islands' colors when he took part in the parade of nations yesterday during the preliminary event of the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship.

After weeks of trying to secure a flag, Macaranas finally obtained one and proudly showed it off along with his dad, Richard, during the event.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, Richard said his son had fun during the opening ceremony. "The opening ceremony was fantastic, with so many kids having the time of their life."

In the run-up to tomorrow's first round of competition in the 9-10 division, Macaranas played a practice round at Welk Resort and shot a three-over par 61. He also finished even par during the putting contest.

Macaranas starts his campaign in the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship tomorrow and he will be paired with defending champion and good friend Issei Tanabe.

Their group—which also consists of Syouta Wakisaka and Guam's Terance Camacho of Guam—will be second to



CNMI golfer R.J. Macaranas shows off the CNMI flag while Dad Richard looks on during the parade of nations of the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship held yesterday at Torrey Pines, San Diego..

the last group to tee off in the 9-10 division at 11:20am.

The 9-10 division of the 2008 Cal-

laway Golf Junior World Golf Championship will be held at Torrey Pines, San Diego.

Last year, Macaranas missed the final two rounds of the 2007 Callaway Junior Golf Tournament after scoring a

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russian students take part in 2008 PTI Aqua Walk

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Students from the former Soviet Union took part in the last Saturday's 2008 PTI Aqua Walk held in the waters off the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Saipan Walking Association, Inc. secretary and Aqua Walk coordinator Mario Espeleta said while the annual event kicked off at around 7:30am, the local walking group waited for 10 Russian students and two of their teachers to join the Aqua Walk a couple of hours later.

SAIWAI regulars—among them Hafadai Beach Hotel employees Susan Gaspar and Marlon Estigoy and Saipan

Oceanview Hotel's Efren Garcia—as well as Aqua Walk enthusiasts like Dr. Jack Hardy and Dr. John Joyner took part in the unique event.

Michelle K. Duty from the United States Coast Guard also took part in the event. The 2008 PTI Aqua Walk's youngest participant was four-year-old Maxine Rabago.

The walk involved two courses—one was in the water and one along the beach shoreline prepared for participants who do not want to get wet.

After two to three loops around the buoys diligently setup by organizers, participants partook of snacks that in-

clude tuna and egg sandwiches, onigire, oranges—all washed down by bottled water and energy drinks.

Event sponsor PTI also made available giveaways made up of frisbees, keychains, and beach balls to all participants of the Aqua Walk.

Before the 2008 edition of the Aqua Walk began, SAIWAI director Gordon Marciano explained that the event was borne out of the Japan market's demand for a unique activity on Saipan.

And while no Japanese tourists took part Saturday, it is Marciano's and SAIWAI's hope that the tourists from the Land of the Rising Sun will return and grace their event next year.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members received credit for joining the 2008 PTI Aqua Walk.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the 2008 PTI Aqua Walk and SAIWAI's future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.



Russian students and their two teachers pose with local teenagers after taking part in the 2008 PTI Aqua Walk held Saturday in the waters off the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel.



SAIWAI regulars pose in front of the tent prior to kicking off the 2008 PTI Aqua Walk last Saturday.

16-over par 74 in the first round and a 12-over par 70 in the second round. He missed the cut by 15 strokes.

Macaranas' father and mother, Becky, both hail from Saipan.

The Callaway Junior World Championship is one of the biggest youth competitions in golf and previous boys champions include Notah Begay III, Emie Els, Phil Mickelson, Corey Pavin, Nick Price, Craig Stadler, David Toms, and Tiger Woods.

The year 1984 was extra special, with David Toms winning the 15-17 event, Els the 13-14s, and Woods the 9-10s, despite being just eight years old.

Past girls champions, meanwhile, include Amy Alcott, Brandie Burton, Lorena Ochoa, and Jennifer Rosales.

The Junior World Golf Championships are held in San Diego, California each year, currently in July.

They include tournaments for six age groups ranging from under-6 to 15-17 and for both boys and girls.

Each age group plays at a separate course, ranging from a par-three course for the youngest to Torrey Pines for the 15-17s, which is also the venue for the Buick Invitational on the PGA Tour and the site of the 2008 U.S. Open.

The event was founded in 1968. The inaugural tournament numbered 475 entrants from 20 U.S. states and six other countries. By 2003, there were 1,040 participants from 43 U.S. states and 45 other countries. Qualifying events are held in the U.S. and elsewhere.

King and Queen of the Diamond meeting tomorrow



The Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament

will hold an organizational meeting tomorrow, July 16, 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tournament coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said all nine teams that took part in the first leg of the competition are invited to attend the organizational meeting.

The second leg of the King and Queen of the Diamond will be held on Aug. 2 and 3 at the Capital Hill Field.

The first leg of the King and Queen of the Diamond was held last May 17 and 18 with Shell Marianas, the former No Ka Oi, winning the championship after beating SaiPal in the title game.

Other teams that took part in the first leg of the tournament were second runner-up Team Chaos, Peligru, Jamack How, PPP Jets, Coral Reef Red Snappers, Team Sufa, and Shell Made to Move.

The winners of the first, second, and third legs of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond will play each other in the championship round to determine the overall champion, which will represent Saipan in a tournament in Palau later in the year.

MARPAC, the exclusive distributor of Budweiser on Saipan, will pay for the tickets of all 15 players of the winning team.

For more information about the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509. (Mark Rabago)

Mountain biking clinic set this Saturday



The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation is sponsoring a mountain biking clinic this Saturday, July 19, at the field next to the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

There will be four instructional topics: (1) Ascending (biking uphill), (2) Descending and Turning (biking downhill), (3) Avoiding obstacles (bunny hops, wheelies, track stands), and (4) Equipment, Maintenance, and Repair.

Each participant will spend one-half

hour covering each topic, for a total of two hours of instruction.

Participants will be divided into four groups according to experience: (1) those who have never rode a mountain bike, (2) those who have been riding very casually but without instruction, (3) those who ride regularly but without instruction, and (4) road bikers with lots of experience in road biking, but want to improve their mountain biking skills. Each group will move from one site to another together.

Each topic will begin with a lecture

and demonstration by the instructor. Then, the participants will saddle up on their own bikes—yes, you must bring your bike—and will practice the skills shown. We have a nice hill at the ball field for ascending and descending and a lot of thick grass to cushion falls.

The fee is \$10/person, but NMIF members may attend for only \$5. Registration begins at 8:30am and cuts off at 9am. Classes are 9am, 9:30am, 10am, and 10:30am. It officially ends at 11am.

You must be 18 to attend, pay the fee, and sign a waiver. Helmets are, of

course, mandatory. Bring your bike.

We will have tents, cold water, and instructors. At present, there are four instructors: Russ Quinn, Ely Torgenson, Tyce Mister, and Nate Hawley.

Keep in mind that this is for bikers of all levels, so if you are experienced, please come to practice your skills, and if you are not, please do not be intimidated. Also, spread the word to your friends. This is a great opportunity to introduce others to mountain biking.

If you have any questions, contact Russ Quinn at 287-0318.

Mark the date on your calendar—next Saturday morning at 8:30am. (NMIF)



RJ carries CNMI flag in opening

CNMI golfer R.J. Macaranas literally carried the islands' colors when he took part in the parade of nations yesterday during preliminary event of the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Surging Perry wins in playoff

Kenny Perry beat Brad Adamonis and Jay Williamson in a playoff to win the John Deere Classic and escape with his third victory in five starts after bogeying the 18th hole on Sunday.



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28 TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

X-Terminators force do-or-die Game 3

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pennant champion Advance X-Terminators lived to fight another day, after surviving repeated rallies by Ol'Aces to force a third and deciding game in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League.

In front of a good-size Sunday crowd at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Bug Busters withstood another scoring explosion by Ol'Aces hitman Fred Pelisamen and rebounded nicely from Thursday's Game 1 disaster by taking Game 2 to the tune of 123-114.



It was not an easy win—to say the least—for Advance X-Terminators as Ol'Aces battled back from several double-digit deficits and even drew within four points of their lead before crucial break-away baskets by Jonathan Lim and Edsel Mendoza finally sealed the deal.

Advance X-Terminators, which lost Game 1 in a humiliating score of 93-129, tried to

win the Game 2 in the first quarter, as it raced to a 12-point lead before sputtering in the final couple of minutes to allow Ol'Aces to

square it all up at 22-all going into the second.

Pelisamen—held to four points by John Artates in the first—finally found his rhythm in the second, scoring on a variety of slashing drives to the basket, pull-up jumpers, and free throws to wind up with 19 in the second.

Lim tried his best to mirror the former national cager's production, as the Rotary standout erupted for his own 14 markers to help Advance X-Terminators to a slim 53-49 spread at the half.

While Ol'Aces continued to be a one-man show in the third with Pelisamen again heating up with 15 points, the Bug Busters this time spread the wealth and it paid huge dividends as they increased their lead to nine points, 86-75, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

See X-TERMINATORS on Page 26

'Embarrassing Game 1 loss was motivation'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

After being blown out by Ol'Aces 93-129 in the first game, Advance X-Terminators coach Marvin Deocares said his boys were more embarrassed than anything else and wanted to even things up as quickly as possible.

Good thing for the pennant champions of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, the wait did not take that long as they hit the floor with their Game 1 tormentors Sunday and let off all three days worth of pent-up frustration on Ol'Aces.

And it showed early as the Bug Busters led by twin numbers only to give up the lead come the second quarter.

Modest leads in the second and third stanzas grew to another a double-digit advantage in the fourth soon after center Abong Camacho was ousted on account of five personal fouls.

But Ol'Aces were not done yet, as scoring machine Fred Pelisamen almost pulled off an amazing come-

See EMBARRASSING on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Advance X-Terminators forward Gyles Ruluked soars for a layup against Ol'Aces reserve center Jack Lizama in Game 2 of their best-of-three finals in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Salas wins Junior League MVP

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Second of a four-part series



Anthony Salas was named the Junior League's regular season most valuable player after the Jets main man finished atop four offensive categories in the 2008 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball Association.

The son of Joe and Cathy Salas was last season's batting champ with a .628 average. He also had the most runs in the division with 22 and was also the league's triples and RBI champion with six triples and 21 runs batted in, respectively.

Salas and other team and individual awardees of all four divisions of the SLLBA's 2008 season were feted Saturday during the awards ceremony held at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the Junior League, two were tied in the doubles category with Salas' teammate McGarrette Dueñas and Peter Tenorio of the Fielders registering five doubles apiece.

Ol'Aces' Jesse Yamagishi was the



Jets' Anthony Salas was named the regular season MVP of the 2008 Junior League after leading his division in four categories—batting, runs, triples, and RBIs.

season's homerun champ with two around-the-bases performances in 2008, while Jets' Harry Nakamura topped the ERA category with a

02.43 average.

Tenorio and Ol'Aces' Lamar Iguel were hailed strikeout champs of the Junior League after both all-stars fanned 26 batters apiece.

In the team category, Salas' Jets won the pennant trophy followed by runners-up Kagman Lion Hearts and UMDA Ol'Aces.

But Kagman Lion Hearts turned things around when it mattered the most, beating the regular season champions in the finale to take home the playoff championship trophy.

The Lion Hearts were led in their 3-2 victory over the Jets last May 25 by brothers Ricardo and Richard Dela Cruz. The former went on to win the playoff MVP plum.

Ol'Aces finished third in the playoffs and also came away with the 2008 sportsmanship trophy—which some say is the season's most valuable piece of hardware.

Jets (Senior League champions) and Tanapag Falcons (Big League champions) also were feted Saturday with SLLBA officials awarding them their trophies. Full details of their successful season will be published in the Saipan Tribune in the coming days.

Kensuke home from Guam training

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's standout Kensuke Kimura recently returned from three weeks of hard training in Guam.

Kimura flew to the U.S. territory last month to join Tsunami Guam practices for its swimmers that will be taking part in the 2008 Junior Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.

According to Kimura's father, Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro, the Tsunami Guam Junior Olympic team practiced two times a day at both the Leo Palace Resort and Onward Beach Resort swimming pools.

"Tsunami Guam is the sister club of Tsunami Saipan and it has some swimmers who qualified for the Junior Olympics. We allowed Kensuke to join them so he could have harder practice sessions with them. Toshi Iijima, who is Tsunami Guam's head coach, trained Kensuke these past three weeks," he said.

The first session was from 9am to 11:30am at Leo Palace, while the second was from 5pm to 7:30pm at Onward Beach Resort. The total distance



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura poses with Tsunami Guam head coach Toshi Iijima at the Leo Palace Resort poolside. Iijima is an experienced coach who has brought up a lot of junior Olympic swimmers in Japan.

for each day of training sessions were from 8,000m to 9,000m—all sans fins.

The elder Kimura said while some of Tsunami Guam's swimmers are going to the 2008 Junior Olympic in Japan this summer, his son, unfortu-

See KENSUKE on Page 26